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POLL RESULTS

Have you gotten your refund/stimulus check yet?

Yes	32
No	127

Sunday, September 05, 2010

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Storm Loss

In the end, Earl's worst damage in New England was to seasonal businesses hoping to end their summer on a high note.

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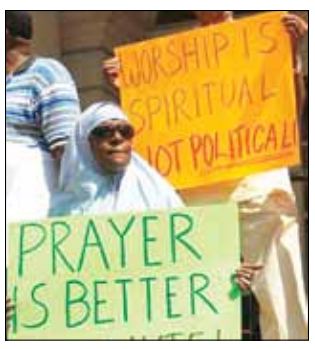

On The Defense

American Muslims are boosting security at mosques, seeking help from leaders of other faiths and airing ads underscoring their loyalty to the United States.

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Bleeding Hard

Hip-hop star Kanye West is still feeling the pain over his ambush of Taylor Swift last year.

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), and Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) review the Fiscal Year 2011 budget bill during a break in the session held from Friday afternoon to evening in the cafeteria of Tinian Elementary School. The Senate passed the budget measure on an 8-0 vote.

Senate OKs budget bill with only 8-hour work cut per pay period

» House's revenue-generating bill amended to increase sin taxes, create 'sweet tax'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate passed on Friday night a $132 million substitute budget bill that calls for an eight-hour work reduction every pay period, an $86,000-cap on the annual discretionary fund of each of the 29 lawmakers, and gives more funding to the Northern Marianas College, the Public School System, and the Judiciary.

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Payless payday on Friday

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Most government employees will not receive their paycheck on Friday, Sept. 10, due to severe cash shortage following bond and scholarship payments totaling some $2.9 million, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's office announced yesterday.

They will receive their paychecks only when sufficient cash becomes available.

As of yesterday, there's no telling when the paychecks will be released.

Government employees in critical services positions will be among those exempted from the delay in payroll

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Arizona immigration law ruling appealed to the Ninth Circuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The nine U.S. states joined by the CNMI government are appealing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from the U.S. District Court of Arizona's ruling that blocked the provisions of Arizona's controversial immigration law.

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox, who filed the appeal, cited three reasons in asking the Court of Appeals to reverse U.S. District of Arizona Judge

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Buckingham recuses himself from all election-related matters. PAGE 2
PSS: 29 school buses, vans ready for opening of classes. PAGE 3

Local

Live the Fiesta Way!
What's cooking this week at
Chambre
BAR
Healthy Menu
Main Course
MONDAY- Holiday
TUESDAY - Sweet & Sour Pork
WEDNESDAY - Sauteed Fish & Vegetable in Ginger Flavor, Sauteed Vegetable Chopsuey
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AG Buckingham recuses himself from all election-related matters

» Fitial appoints Hassel-Shearer to direct OAG on poll issues

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham has recused himself from all involvement and oversight of the November 2010 election after formal complaints have been filed against him and the Office of the Attorney General over their hosting of a gathering for delegate candidate Joseph Camacho of the ruling Covenant Party.

"I have advised the governor that, effective immediately, I hereby recuse myself from all involvement and oversight of the election," Buckingham said in a statement issued on Friday afternoon.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in an interview Friday morning with *Saipan Tribune*, said he was about to sit down with Buckingham to discuss the complaints filed against him and the OAG.

Hours later, Buckingham issued a statement about his decision.

Fitial appointed Assistant Attorney General Meaghan Hassel-Shearer to direct activities of the OAG related to the November 2010 election with the full authority of the attorney general.

Hassel-Shearer has served as counsel for the CNMI Board of Elections.

Fitial appointed Buckingham in August 2009, and the Senate immediately confirmed his appointment. Prior to becoming the CNMI attorney general, Buckingham served as an assistant attorney general since 2003.

Federal monitors requested

Buckingham, in his statement on Friday, also said that he has already requested federal monitors for the upcoming election and made assurances that these federal monitors will have full and unfettered access to all aspects of the election.

The election is set for Nov. 2.

Voters will have to choose for only the second time in history a CNMI delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Incumbent Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is seeking reelection, and three others are running against him: former floor leader Joseph Camacho of Fitial's Covenant Party, former Gov. Juan N. Babauta of the Republican Party, and former Lt. Gov. Jesse Borja of the Democratic Party.

Sablan filed on Thursday an Open Government Act request for records from the OAG related to Buckingham and the OAG's hosting of the gathering for Camacho on Aug. 28 at the private residence of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in Gualo Rai.

Buckingham said he made a $300 personal contribution for food and cleanup for the event.

Borja, for his part, filed a formal complaint with the Office of the Public Auditor to investigate Buckingham and his office for hosting a campaign gathering for one of the delegate candidates.

Other private citizens also filed similar complaints with OPA.

'I welcome investigation'

Public Auditor Michael Pai confirmed on Thursday that OPA "received several complaints" on the matter.

Buckingham said he has "no objection to OPA investigating

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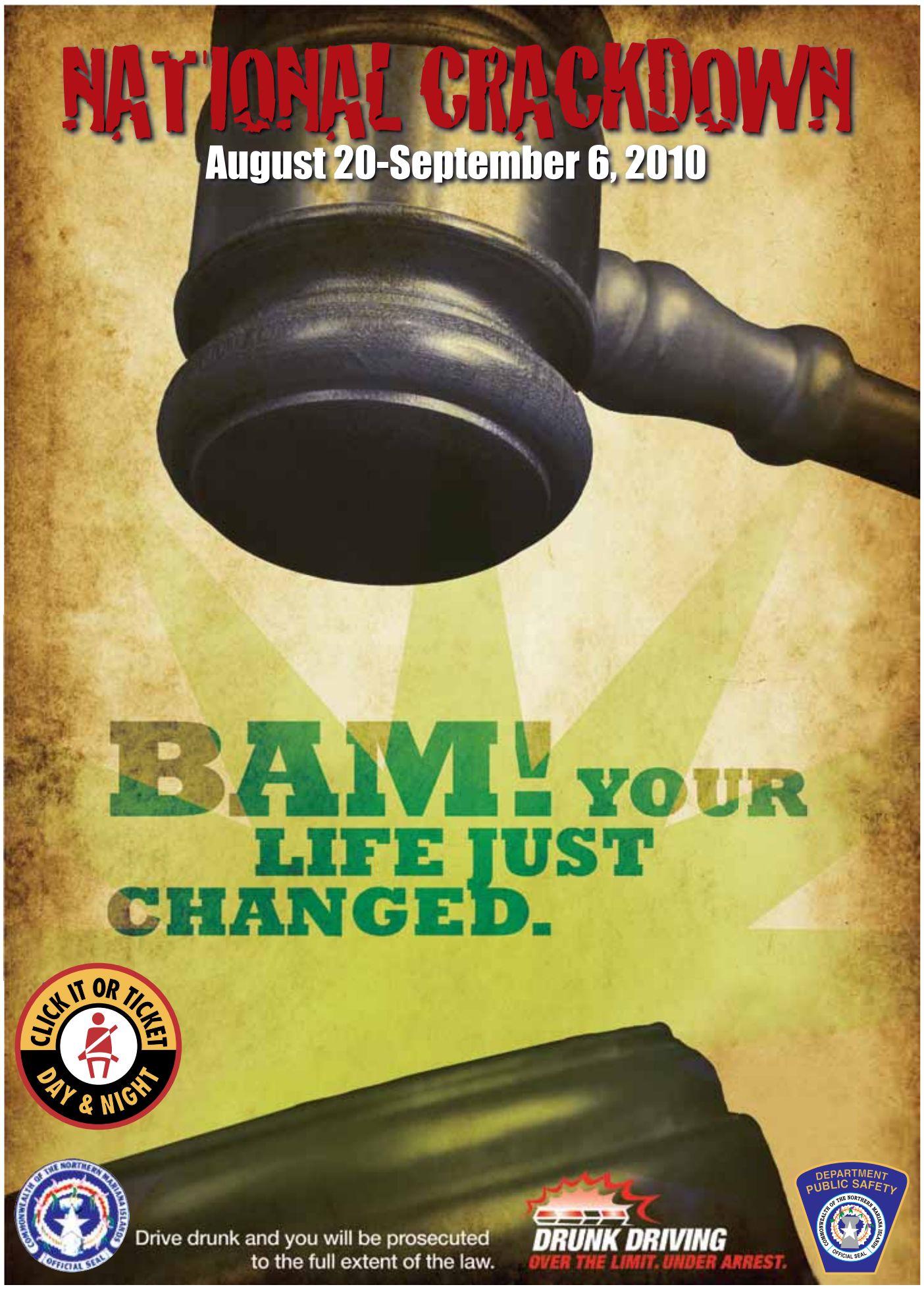
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PSS: 29 school buses, vans ready for opening of classes

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System's bus department is all set for the opening of classes tomorrow with a total of 29 vehicles to serve new and returning students on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

Eric Atalig, PSS program manager for bus transportation, told *Saipan Tribune* that 17 regular buses are ready to serve Saipan students. Of the 17, two are 72-seat capacity, while the rest are capable of transporting 66 passengers each.

Atalig said that besides these regular buses, five shuttle buses will also help transport students for the special education program on Saipan with seat capacity of nine passengers. A mini-bus is also available for special education program's wheelchair-bound students.

On Rota, PSS designated two regular buses—both 66-seat capacity—and a shuttle van for special education students.

Tinian will also be served by two regular buses and a shuttle van for students with special needs.

Atalig said all these vehicles are assigned to make double trips starting tomorrow, depending on the needs of each school.

Extra trips may also be conducted in some areas on Saipan such as As Matuis, where more students are expected to take the trip to Hopwood Junior High School.

He added that each school has also a designated school bus for their own students.

PSS also has enough number of bus drivers who will man the transport vehicles totaling 18, with two alternates. Each is assigned to do double trips depending on school sector and current schedule is subject for change.

According to Atalig, all drivers undergo defensive training during the summer and to date, five of the PSS' drivers were certified for cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR.

The smooth preparation for the transport department was attributed by Atalig to the commitment and full support of the central office, Board of Education, and the Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

On Tuesday, PSS will continue to implement the riders' policy for all students and their parents.

During school year 2007-2008, a bus rider's policy was implemented by PSS to ensure that PSS property is protected.

Over 11,000 students are expected to attend the public schools this school year from kindergarten to 12th grade.

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BUCKINGHAM

From Page 2

me but rather welcome it, as the facts of this matter, when known, will exonerate me and the Office of the Attorney General."

The attorney general said fair and honest elections are critical to a healthy government.

"Beginning with work of acting AG Clyde Lemons, the office has monitors elections and supported the Commonwealth Election Commission. We have done so while maintaining strict independence from all candidates, regardless of party," he said.

Buckingham said in his service as attorney general, he has continued both the engagement of the OAG in elections, and strict political neutrality.

"Nonetheless, within the last week, there have been charges that I and the Office of the Attorney General have engaged in partisan politics, favoring one candidate over others in the upcoming election for the United States Congress. These allegations will be the subject of investigation and I am confident that facts will support the following findings," he said.

Buckingham said these findings include:

■ "The Office of the Attorney General has not 'endorsed' any candidate for the United States Congress in the upcoming election;

■ "No endorsement of candidate Camacho or his political party by either me, the Office of the Attorney General, or any attorneys or staff of the Office of the Attorney Genera was either intended or made. This is apparent from the video of my remarks at the gathering which in no way expressed or implied an endorsement of candidate Camacho or any other candidate. I want to make it crystal clear that I have not endorsed him and have not asked anyone to vote for him; and

■ "Political candidates claiming endorsement by the Office of the Attorney General is not the same as me or anyone from our office 'endorsing' a candidate. Unauthorized claims of endorsement happen frequently in the robust and no-holds-bared elections which are typical of a healthy democratic system of government."

The Committee to Elect Jesse Borja, in its filing of a formal complaint with OPA, the Commonwealth Election Commission, and the OAG against Buckingham and the OAG, cited "serious violations of the Commonwealth Election Law, violations of the Commonwealth Government Ethics Law, and perhaps other violations of local and federal law and regulation."

The committee said it will also be sending a copy of the formal complaint to the Federal Election Commission.

It said because of "conflict of interest" involving Buckingham and the OAG, it is asking that a special prosecutor be appointed to investigate Buckingham and the OAG.

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ARIZONA

From Page 1

Susan Bolton's preliminary injunction against Arizona's immigration law.

Bolton's preliminary injunction blocked provisions that include requiring verification of immigration status, arrest for failure to carry immigration papers, making it illegal for an illegal immigration to solicit work, and allowing a warrantless arrest for a potentially removable alien.

According to Bolton, these provisions are all preempted by the federal immigration law.

Cox, however, asserted that the U.S. District of Arizona could only reach its conclusion that the U.S. was likely to prevail on the merits because it ignored principles of statutory interpretation.

"In doing so, the District Court did not attempt to construe the statute to be constitutional; rather, it sought out interpretations to invalidate S.B. 1070 (Arizona immigration law)," he said.

The second reason, the Michigan AG said, in analyzing this facial challenge, the District Court reached out for hypothetical circumstances it believed justified its conclusion, and improperly found that the executive branch's policy decisions to not enforce the law and Congress' intent could support a preemption claim.

"Hypothetical possibilities are insufficient to sustain a facial challenge," he said.

Finally, Cox said, Congress' intent here, broadly stated, is to control illegal entry into the country and the presence of those who should be removed for crimes warranting such action.

He said Congress has expressly indicated that this is a cooperative effort with the states through the exchange of information.

Cox said the sovereign states possess the inherent power to enforce federal law.

"It cannot be that when State law enforcement officers have reasonable suspicion that an individual is in the country illegally that the verification and relay of that information to the federal government is against Congress's intent," he said.

He added that it cannot be that when law enforcement has probable cause that an individual has committed a removable offense, that individual is arrested, and the individual is referred to the federal government, that those actions are against Congress' intent.

Cox said like Arizona, the State of Michigan and the *amici* states have the power to concurrently enforce federal immigration law, provided that the States do not create new categories of aliens or attempt to independently determine the immigration status of an alien.

"This is the regulatory scheme envisioned by Congress—which is one of concurrent enforcement—where the federal government must respond to any inquiry by a State or local government agency seeking to verify the immigration status of any person within its jurisdiction," Cox said.

By lawsuit, rather than by legislation, he said, the executive branch seeks to negate this pre-existing power of the states to verify a person's immigration status and similarly seeks to reject the assistance that the states can lawfully provide to the federal government.

CNMI Attorney General Edward Buckingham approved supporting the brief filed by Cox that supported Arizona's immigration law.

Also joined the Michigan brief are Florida, Alabama, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, and Virginia.

Buckingham also approved the CNMI's joining in the appeal.

The Obama administration's lawsuit in the Phoenix federa court asserts that the Arizona immigration law, supposed to take effect last July 9, usurps the federal government's "pre-eminent authority" under the U.S. Constitution to regulate immigration.

Obama stated that the Arizona law has the potential of violating the rights of innocent American citizens and legal residents, making them subject to possible stops or questioning because of what they look like or how they sound.

PAYLESS

From Page 1

checks, including doctors, nurses, police officers, fire fighters, and corrections officers.

This will be the second time in CNMI history that government payroll will be delayed. The first one was on June 18; but most employees received their checks a few days later, on June 21.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that "the continued decline in adequate cash flow has once again caused the central government to put a halt to the coming September 10th payroll of employees paid out of the general fund."

"Following the Commonwealth's bond payment of $1.3 million and the scheduled release of some $1.6 million for recipients of the CNMI Scholarship and the SHEFA Scholarship programs, it has been determined that the government's ability to meet its payroll obligations for this Friday will not be possible," Demapan said.

SHEFA stands for Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance, which is mired in controversy over alleged discrimination against U.S. citizen students whose scholarship applications were disapproved because at least one of their parents were non-U.S. citizens.

Update on reprogramming law needed

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), when asked for comment yesterday, said the Senate knows that the cash flow is in critical condition but they would like to know whether the Fitial administration has already exhausted its authority to reprogram up to $10 million for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2010 based on a law passed in June.

Public Law 17-6 authorized the governor to reprogram up to $10 million for the remainder of FY 2010 ending Sept. 30, 2010 for payrolls.

The administration tapped independent agencies such as the Commonwealth Development Authority, the Department of Public Lands, and the Marianas Public Land Trust for such purpose.

But as of yesterday, the Legislature has yet to receive an update from the administration as to the status of the reprogrammed funds under PL 17-6 since June.

"I cannot really comment now about the delayed payroll but one of the issues I would like to find out is whether the authority given to the governor to reprogram up to $10 million and tap some agencies' money like MPLT has been exhausted," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Exemptions

Demapan said similar to the delayed payroll on June 18, only government personnel classified as "critical services" will receive "paper checks" on Friday.

These services include the emergency personnel from the Department of Public Safety's Police and Fire Divisions, Department of Public Health, Department of Corrections, and the Division of Youth Services' Juvenile Detention Unit.

The Public School System and the Northern Marianas College will not be affected by the payroll delay.

Federally funded employees can also expect to receive paper checks on time.

"All other personnel paid out of the general fund will receive paper checks as soon as there is enough cash available," Demapan said.

The press secretary said there will be no direct deposits and automatic allotments for all employees, including those considered "critical services."

Thus, employees will have to physically satisfy their third-party obligations with their respective financial institutions.

"Recognizing that the delay will be difficult and inconvenient for many, the administration sought to make the announcement once the reality of a delayed payroll became apparent. The decline in resources and collections continue to take its toll on the government's ability to meet its obligations.

Following the June 18 delay in payroll, government employees were receiving paper checks instead of electronic fund transfers. It was only on July 30 that payroll went back to normal—or through electronic transfer payroll instead of paper checks.

At that time, then acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos said this does not mean the government is out of the woods yet.

SENATE

From Page 1

All eight senators present during Friday's session on Tinian voted "yes" on the Fiscal Year 2011 budget bill.

Only Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan) was absent because he was off-island.

Senators passed House Bill 17-96, House Substitute 2, Senate Substitute 1 at 7:09pm.

The House of Representatives and the Fitial administration expected that the work hour cuts will be 16 hours per pay period—from 80 to 64 hours—to be able to live within a $132 million budget available for the government's operation.

The spending measure, introduced by House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan) and Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), goes back to the House.

The House could either pass or reject the Senate substitute bill, barely three weeks before the end of FY 2010 on Sept. 30.

Without a budget passed before the start of FY 2011 on Oct. 1, the government will be forced to shut down as required by a constitutional amendment that voters ratified last year.

If the House approves the budget bill as amended by the Senate, it goes to the governor's desk for signature.

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said if the House rejects the Senate substitute bill, then the House and Senate will go into a conference committee on the spending measure.

"I hope that we could work cooperatively on the budget bill once we go into a conference committee," Taimanao told *Saipan Tribune*.

Revenue-generating bill

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) said he hopes that the Senate and House can also work together on a House revenue-generating bill that the Senate amended to include increasing the so-called "sin" taxes, implementing a new "sweet" tax and changes to the education tax credit.

"Sin" taxes apply to tobacco and alcohol products as well as an increase in poker license fees, while "sweet" tax will be imposed to combat obesity, diabetes, and other contributing health problems in the CNMI.

HB 17-40, HD2, SS1, which passed the Senate on a 4-0 vote with four abstentions subject to the president's call, increases business license fees and taxes.

The Senate amended and passed the bill, but lowered the rate of increases for the taxes and fees that the House identified. Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) introduced the bill.

"The revenue-generating bill is half of the equation," Manglona said.

The Senate said the changes they made to Cabrera's bill will increase the revenue to be generated, and will make up for the reduced work hour cuts—from 16 hours of work reduction that the House and the administration want, to only eight hours of work cuts proposed by the Senate per pay period.

Smooth passage

Unlike the House which passed the budget bill on Aug. 18 after frayed tempers and shouting matches, the Senate's passage of the spending measure went smoothly.

Senators all agreed to an eight-hour cut for government employees, from 80 to 72 hours per pay period, instead of a 16-hour cut that the House and the Fitial administration wanted.

The Fitial administration had already sent out notices of a 16-hour cut for all Executive Branch employees for FY 2011.

Exempted from the work hour cuts are doctors, nurses, police officers, corrections officers, fire fighters, and others in critical service positions.

Senators took turns offering floor amendments.

Discretionary funding

The Senate substitute bill caps the discretionary funding of each lawmaker to $99,000 a year, which is far lower than what the House had proposed at $130,000 a year.

Concerned citizens protested the increase in lawmakers' operation budget from the current $86,796 to $130,000, while most government employees could receive up to 25 percent cuts in their salary.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) offered a floor amendment that will cap the annual discretionary fund of each of the 29 lawmakers to $86,000, instead of $99,000.

The Senate version of the budget bill also increases the leadership account from $76,330 each for the House and Senate, to $120,330 each.

Ayuyu's amendment included bringing back the leadership account to $120,330.

All of the eight senators present at the session approved Ayuyu's amendment.

Ayuyu said there will be $465,000 in savings as a result of his amendment. Of this amount, $31,000 will be given to the Youth Congress, and $434,000 will be given to the CNMI Scholarship Office.

Taimanao's floor amendment specified how the $500,000 allotted under the Marianas Visitors Authority's "all others" account should be spent: $190,000 to support charter flights to Tinian; $100,000 to support charter flights to Rota; and $120,000 to pay for outstanding account with KNT.

The eight senators also voted "yes" on this amendment.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) also offered a floor amendment to take $40,000 from the Office of the Attorney General's "all others" account, and give $37,000 of this to the "all others" account of the Legislative Bureau and the remaining $3,000 to the "personnel" account of the bureau. This amendment also passed.

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) also offered an amendment which also passed. Other senators present were Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Saipan), and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

'Thank you'

Officials from PSS, NMC, and the Judiciary flew to Tinian to attend the Senate session, hoping that the Senate will give them more funding under the budget bill.

The Senate version of the budget bill gives NMC an additional $439,000, for a total of $5,040,873.

NMC acting interim president Barbara Merfalen and NMC chief financial and administrative officer Henry Hofschneider, in an interview on Tinian, said the new amount for NMC meets the maintenance-of-effort agreement between the U.S. Department of Education and the CNMI governor.

Also present at the session were Board of Regents chair Janet H. King.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, Public School System federal programs coordinator Tim Thornburgh, and PSS finance director Richard Waldo, who all went to Tinian for the Senate session, also felt relieved that the Senate gave additional funding to PSS.

The Senate gave PSS an additional $173,700. This means PSS gets $30,305,722, more than the House gave—$30,132,022.

Tracy Guerrero, administrator for the CNMI Judiciary, also thanked the Senate during the session on Friday, for giving the Judiciary an additional $605,159. The Judiciary's budget is now $3,578,006, compared to $2,972,847 that the House earlier gave.

Tinian officials and residents also showed up at the Senate session, including Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz.

SHEFA: Students have right to appeal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance board member Maggie C. Camacho said students who were denied financial assistance offered by the program have the right to appeal.

The disapproval of students' applications was earlier described by them as "unfair" while initial statement from Saipan Mayor Donald Flores cited an "indication of bias" on SHEFA's actions.

The mayor promised to look into the matter and see whether the program's policy and regulations were violated.

"The students who were denied have the right to appeal. That is the procedure to follow. That's when the appeal committee hears the case and makes a determination on each applicant," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

She added that the staff and review committee did their part and based on their findings, "unfortunately some applicants were not granted."

"That is standard," she said, adding she is aware of one person who's been denied because he did not meet the residency requirement in Saipan which was found short of about a month or two.

She revealed that some of the parents of these students are calling board members to complain through other people.

"This, I do not appreciate. Let them go through the due process of appealing and be heard. That is how we should proceed," she added.

Camacho, however, declined to make any statement pertaining to the mayor's statement about early indication of bias on the decision.

"On the part of the mayor's comment, I wonder what made him say such statement. The board has yet to review the applications which have been denied. Therefore, I refrain from making any statement relative to his comments," she added.

Meantime, after news report that many students were disapproved of the SHEFA scholarship, *Saipan Tribune* received some calls and confirmation from other students who were similarly denied financial assistance because of the same reason.

One of them is Jim Cedrick Libut, who graduated as class valedictorian at Grace Christian Academy last school year. Libut has a 4.04 grade point average.

Others asked not to be named because they have yet to file their appeal to the board and thus may affect their application to the program.

The scholarship program provides qualified students up to $5,000 in financial assistance from poker fees. Its mission is to provide supplementary financial assistance in pursuing post-secondary education on Saipan or abroad with the agreement that they will return and serve the island.

Judges clear couple of charges of stealing truck, falsifying ownership

The Superior Court has ordered the release from jail an auto shop owner and dismissed the case against his wife in connection with their arrest last month on charges they stole a vehicle and falsified its certificate of ownership.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos found no probable cause to believe that the charges filed against Mohammad Jahangir Miah were committed and that they were committed by Miah.

Attorney Edward Arriola Sr. served as counsel for Mr. Miah.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja in a separate hearing dismissed without prejudice the charges against Miah's wife, Tahira Miah.

Chief Prosecutor Michael L. Ernest moved to dismiss without prejudice the information against Mrs. Miah.

Dismissed without prejudice is when case is dismissed but the plaintiff is allowed to re-file a new suit on the same claim in the future.

The Office of the Attorney General charged the Miah couple with theft of vehicle, and falsification of vehicle identification.

Detective Jonathan Decena stated in his report that investigation showed that the Miah couple stole a Nissan Frontier pick-up truck belonging to Chai Jin Liu on June 20, 2010 and replaced its license plate.

Decena said Liu reported to the Department of Public Safety regarding the theft of her vehicle on that same day.

Liu told police that at 4:30am, her neighbor woke her up after he saw a man who came on board a sky blue truck and drove her Frontier that was parked in front of her house in San Antonio.

The witness said the sky blue truck then followed the Frontier.

Decena said follow-up investigation led police to believe that the Miah couple was behind the theft.

Inos

Decena said that on July 23 Mrs. Miah admitted to a traffic investigator that it was them who stole the Frontier in San Antonio.

Mrs. Miah said her husband planned the entire thing after they obtained an extra set of keys for the vehicle from the wife of the original owner.

On July 23, police arrested Mr. Miah on charges of receiving stolen property, theft of vehicle, and tampering with vehicle. Investigators learned that Mr. Miah tampered the VIN numbers of a stolen car and replaced it with another license plate. He was released from jail after posting bail. The case is pending in court.

Mr. Miah owns an auto shop in As Lito. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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CLARISSA V. DAVID

Members of the Saipan Awaodori Team pose with their families and PDM Promoters staff at the airport Thursday afternoon. The group participated in the 54th Tokyo Koenji Awaodori Dance Festival last Aug. 28 to 29.

Saipan Awaodori Team back on Saipan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Saipan Awaodori Team returned home to Saipan last Sept. 2 after their weeklong stay in Japan for the Awaodori Festival.

The young dancers were all smiles as they hugged their families who came to get them at the airport Thursday afternoon along with some staff of PDM Promoters.

The Saipan Awaodori Team left for Japan last Aug. 26 and took part in the 54th Tokyo Koenji Awaodori Dance Festival held from Aug. 28 to 29.

Held annually on the last weekend of August, the Koenji Awaodori Dance Festival is the second largest of all the Awaodori festivals held all over Japan, next to the one in Tokushima.

The participants were chosen by Yukihiro Iwanami of the Tokyo Tensuiren Group when they were on island for the Saipan Awaodori Festival last April.

The Tokyo Tensuiren Group is part of the Koenji Awaodori Organization in Japan. Aside from the Saipan Awaodori Festival, the group also participates in the Fourth of July festivities.

Innocenzia They told *Saipan Tribune* that it was hard to be away from her son Itheyvin and daughter Thyvie Ann for the first time.

According to Innocenzia, it's her children's first time to ride on an airplane, go to Japan, and participate in the Awaodori Festival.

"I'm really proud of them," said Innocenzia, who greeted her children with mwar mwar and a warm embrace. She was at the airport with her sister and her two other sons.

Rose Fernandez said she is "super proud" of her son Ronald who joined the Japan festival for the second time.

"All parents of these kids are proud that they all went to Japan," she said.

Elisa Lazaro told *Saipan Tribune* that she enjoyed the festival and met new friends. She also said she had fun during their trip to Tokyo Disneyland.

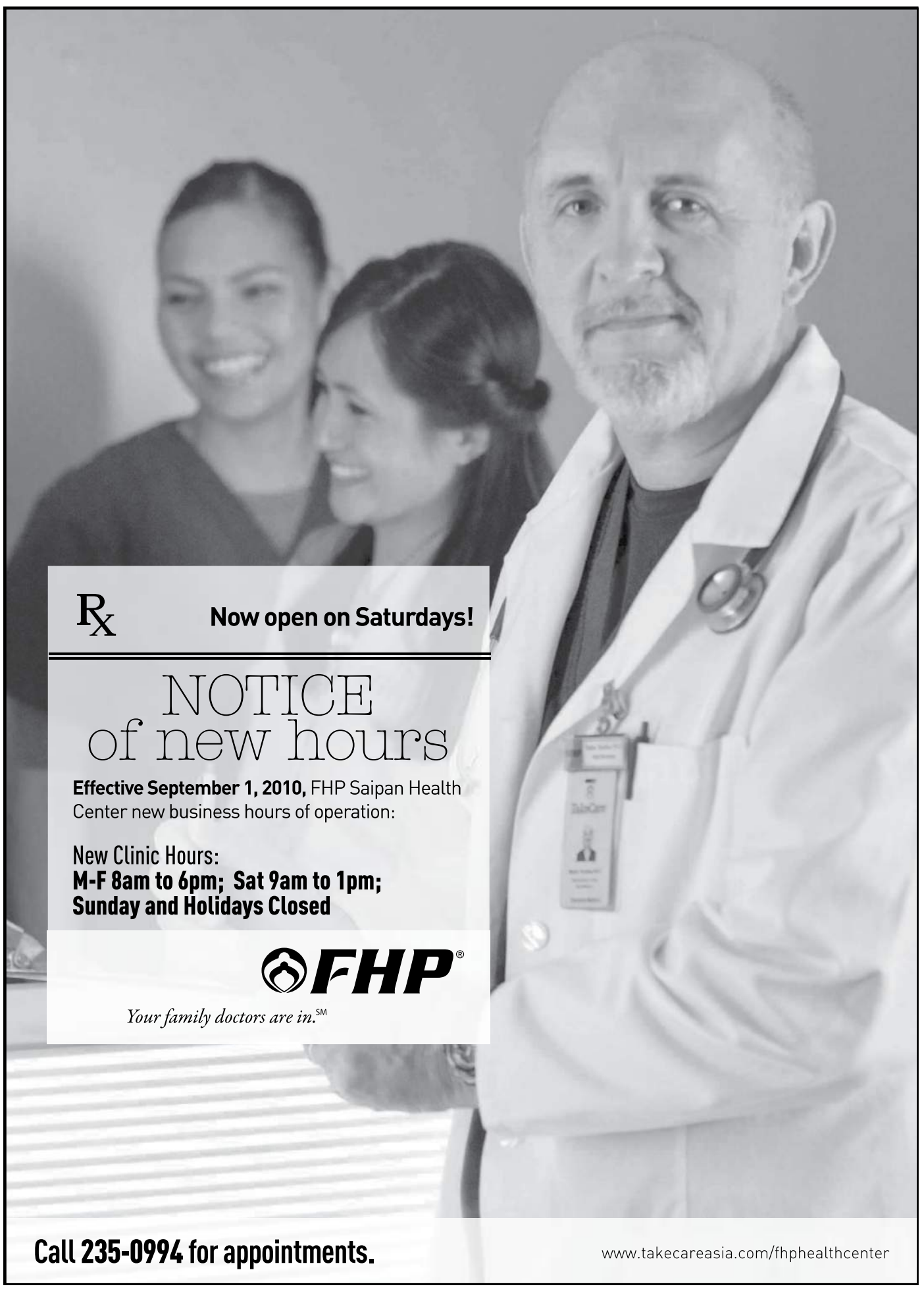
Itheyvin They said he enjoyed the trip and had fun when they did the marching at the festival. He also said he met new friends and learned more about the customs in Japan.

The young dancers arrived with directors Misako Kamata and Hideaki Sawada of PDM Promoters.

Sawada said the children did a "very, very good" performance with thousands of other festival dancers. "I think they enjoyed to dance," he said.

According to Sawada, this year's festival saw the participation of about 120,000 people which was surprising and overwhelming for the children.

Despite the language barrier, Kamata said the children communicated with members of the Tokyo Tensuiren and learned a lot about Japanese culture. "I'm really proud of all these kids," she added.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Navy water conservation measures return to Level IV

SANTA RITA, Guam—Naval Base Guam has returned to Water Conservation Level (WCL) IV due to the Fena reservoir level having risen with the recent rains.

According to Cmdr. Kevin Gillam, Executive Officer of Naval Base Guam, while moving from WCL III to IV is a step in the right direction, "we should always look for ways to preserve our natural resources". WCL IV applies to Naval Base Guam personnel and their families and they are directed to observe the mandatory water conservation measures that are still in effect. These measures include limiting the washing of personal vehicles to only once per month; no command-sponsored car washes are authorized on base; and washing down driveways, parking areas, patios and porches is prohibited.

The Navy Exchange car wash will reopen for their patron's use and will resume their normal operating hours.

Naval Base Guam Public Works Officer, Cmdr. Mike Thornton, said the water conservation directives given to Navy personnel are also appropriate measures and guidelines to follow for any resident in the southern villages and other areas whose water source is the Fena reservoir.

For more information contact the Naval Base Guam Public Affairs Office. ***(PR)***

Sanchez completes Air Force Guard basic training

Airman 1C Leon I. Sanchez Jr. recently completed his basic training for the Air Force Guard. The son of Leon & Erlinda Sanchez of Tinian, Leon graduated from 331st Squadron also known as the Wolf Pack Squadron last July 23. He is now attending technical school for Security Forces at the 343rd Security Forces Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Sanchez

Leon is a former CNMI police officer who is married to Shequita DLG Bennett. Shequita is the former Miss Marianas Universe and she is in the Air Force. They have one child Tiana Renee Sanchez. ***(PR)***

Abrams is recipient of Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer's Award

An aspiring writer of Northern Marianas origin is among the six writers to receive a grant from a national literary awards program dedicated to supporting women writers.

Hannah Dela Cruz Abrams is chosen to be one of the recipients of the 2010 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer's Award.

Abrams, Rachel Aviv, Sara Elizabeth Johnson, Alexandria Marzano-Lesnevich, Laura Newbern, and Tiphanie Yanique will be presented with $25,000 each in a Writers' Awards ceremony in New York City slated for Sept. 23.

The Rona Jaffe Awards have helped many women have successful writing careers through encouragement and financial support.

Established in 1995 by novelist Rona Jaffe, the foundation aims to recognize that women writers make special contributions to our culture and tries to address the difficulties that these women writers have in finding time to write and gaining recognition.

Female writers of fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry are eligible for the program which solicits nominations from writers, editors, critics, and other literary professionals who encounter women writers with exceptional talents.

Since its inception, the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer's Award has awarded more than $1 million in grants to over 100 women, including those who have been critically acclaimed like Elif Batuman, Eula Biss, Judy Budnitz, Lan SamanthaChang, Rebecca Curtis, Rivka Glachen, Kathleen Graber, and Frances Hwang.

The daughter of an American and a Northern Mariana Islands native, Abrams is working on *The Following Sea*, a memoir which explores the lives of her parents who brought her up on a yacht in the South Pacific.

"The book is away to recover our past and trace how the strange and fantastic lives that have happened since still connect us," said Abrams.

Abrams resides in Wilmington, North Carolina. She is currently teaching at the University of North Carolina Wilmington where she received her bachelor's and post graduate degree.

For more information about the Rona Jaffe Foundation, visit their website at www.ronajaffefoundation.org. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Woman gets 9 months for possession of 'ice'

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona has imposed a nine-month jail term on a woman who pleaded guilty to illegal possession of methamphetamine or "ice."

Manglona said Guiying Mo, 42, is not subject to suspension, parole, or probation.

Manglona, however, gave Mo credit for the nine months that she already served in prison.

The judge ordered Mo to depart the CNMI no later than Dec. 5, 2010.

Manglona required the defendant to pay a $2,000 fine.

A review hearing was set for Dec. 15, 2010 if the defendant is still in the CNMI.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Mo and Yiming Xu with conspiracy to commit trafficking of controlled substance, trafficking of controlled substance, and illegal possession of controlled substance.

Mo and counsel Thomas E. Clifford signed a plea agreement with the government.

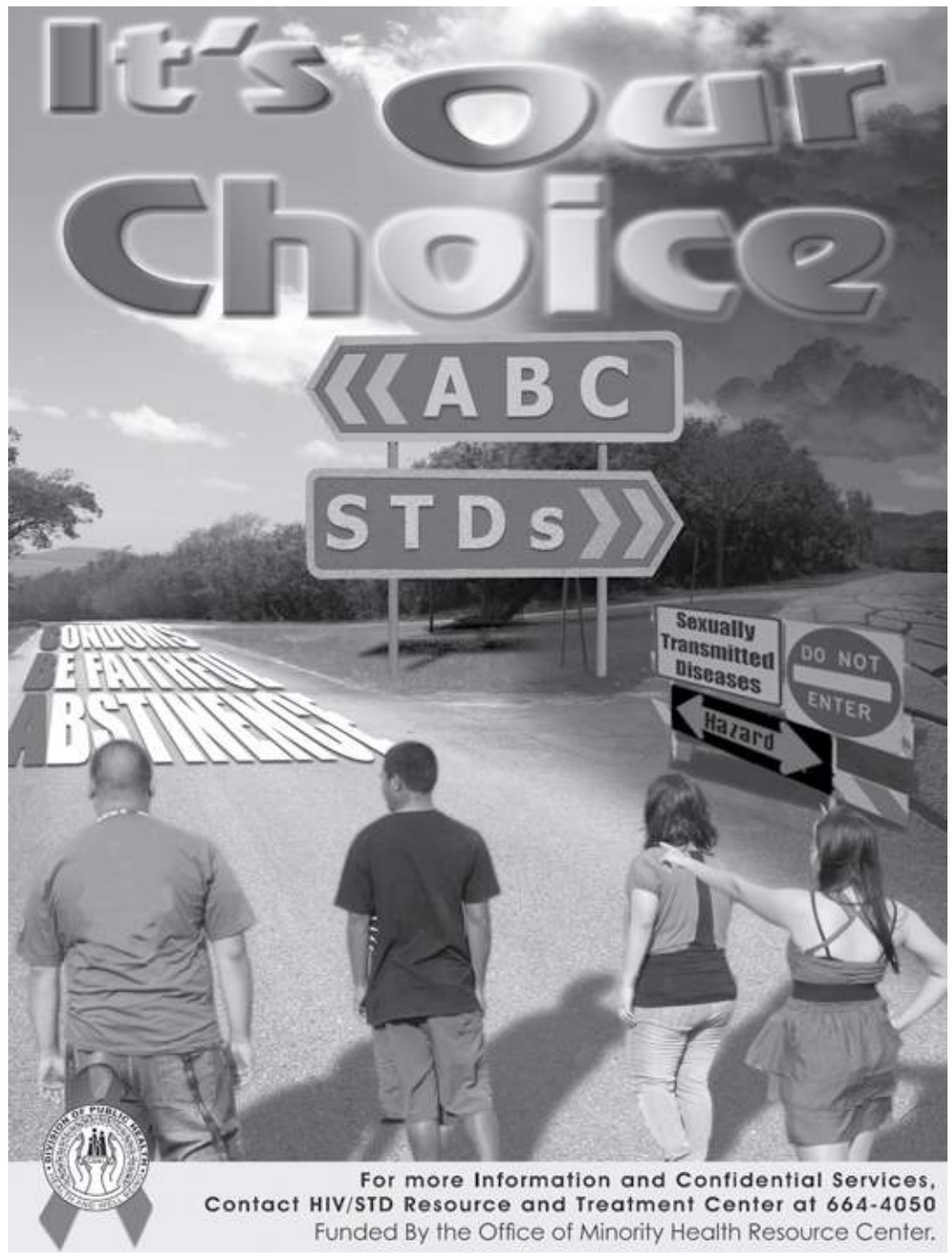
The jury trial for Xu was set for Oct. 25, 2010.

Authorities arrested Mo and Xu in December 2009 for allegedly selling "ice" on Saipan.

Detective Steven Castro stated in his report that members of the Department of Public Safety's Narcotics Unit managed to buy $150 worth of "ice" from Xu using a "cooperating source" and an undercover police officer at Xu's residence in Afetnas.

It was Mo who allegedly handed over a baggie containing "ice" during a buy-bust operation.

During a search of the house, officers reportedly recovered 74 grams of "ice." Mo was found in the restroom where baggies containing "ice" were reportedly seized. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

International COASTAL CLEANUP 2010

FRIDAY, SEPT. 24th and SATURDAY, SEPT. 25th!

SAIPAN VOLUNTEER GROUPS:

Rotary Club of Saipan
Shirley's Coffee Shop
Fiesta Resort and Spa
Mariana Islands Nature Alliance
Saipan International School
Friends of the Marianas
Saipan Swim Club
Pacific Marine Resources Institute
Hyatt Regency Saipan
NMC Environment and Natural Resources
Saipan Seventh Day Adventist School
Port Users and Operators Committee
Brabu Pharmacy
Hopwood Junior High School
CTSI Logistics
Mayor's Office of Saipan
Office of Rep. Antonio Sablan
Winzler & Kelly
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Marianas Baptist Academy

SAIPAN SITES:

Garapan Fishing Base
Sugar Dock to Aquarius
Makaka Beach
Paupau Beach
Tanapag Beach
Kilili Beach
Micro Beach
Quartermaster Rd. to 13 Fishermen
South Laolao Beach
Quartermaster Rd. to MVA
Unai Sadog Tasi
North Laolao Beach
Wing Beach
San Roque Beach
Susupe Park Beach
13 Fishermen Monument area
PIC to San Antonio Elementary
San Antonio Beach

TINIAN: All government agencies and schools are asked to help out on Friday the 24th.

ROTA: Rota volunteers will be cleaning beaches as part of the Coastal Cleanup for the sixth year in a row! We encourage all Rota agencies, organizations and individuals to join this longest running international cleanup event in the CNMI.

*Note: These lists were updated September 2 New groups and sites are added daily. Help us by spreading the word to your friends and colleagues.

There's still time to volunteer your group for the International Coastal Cleanup! We can all make a difference when it comes to marine debris. Call CRM at the numbers below to request a 2010 cleanup registration form.

CLEANUP CONTACTS:
664-8305 (Saipan)
532-0466 (Rota)
433-0494 (Tinian)

Thank you to our partners - Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, Beautify CNMI, and the Department of Public Works

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Coral Reef Initiative Northern Mariana Islands
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REQUEST FOR QUOTATION
RFQ 10-006

Academic Program and Services

Northern Marianas College is soliciting quotation for the services of a qualified consultant on the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Tuesday (September 07, 2010) to Friday between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

This procurement is federally funded so in accordance to P.L 15-95 as amended by P.L 15-118, local preference does not apply.

Quotations are due no later than 4:00 p.m., September 10, 2010, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the RFP via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita Camacho (anitac@nmcnet.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all quotations for any reason and waive any defect in said quotations, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFQ, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

This project is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. All provisions apply.

Approved by the following:

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

/s/ Lorraine T Cabrera
Interim President

CPA approves $55.6K to fix airport loading bridges

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority approved the release of $55,600 to purchase equipment to repair the loading bridges at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

The board, in a unanimous vote, adopted the $55,600 supplemental request for the immediate repairs of the airport's loading bridges.

The amount will be sourced from the agency's passenger facility charge revenue, according to CPA comptroller Derek Sasamoto.

Sasamoto, during the agency's board meeting last week, reported that airlines have complained of the non-functioning loading bridges.

Loading bridges are enclosed, movable connectors which extend from an airport terminal gate to an airplane, allowing passengers to board and disembark without having to go outside.

It was disclosed that the airport's loading bridge No. 2 needs immediate repair on the turntable deck and the canopy flooring. It was learned that the original wood that was installed has rotted and is beginning to sag.

Saipan Tribune learned that the turntable curtain on loading bridge No. 2 has also reached a condition beyond repair and requires replacement.

For loading bridge No. 3, the drive motor is out of service and needs replacement. CPA officials said that the agency's spare motor was just recently used for loading bridge No. 6.

Before the board voted on the funding request, Sasamoto and CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero emphasized the "urgency" to put back loading bridges No. 2 and 3 in good working condition.

"It is crucial part of the airlines' overall operation of providing convenience and safety to their passengers. Our part, as the owner, is to provide the facility and equipment for their use," the ports authority officials said.

Also part of the approved $55,600 funding request is the architectural and engineering design for the two other CPA projects, which includes the departure building crack project.

Saipan Tribune learned that CPA has a fund balance in its PFC of over $800,000 as of December 2009.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 6, 2000

Bill regulating commercial use of lagoon faces strong opposition

Boat owners and tour operators came in full force to a public hearing held yesterday by the House transportation committee to oppose legislation that will regulate sea vessels' traffic within Saipan's western lagoon. They pleaded anew their case against the management of the Outer Cove Marina over safety and fees, turning the hearing into an extension of last week's Senate oversight into the controversy. But Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho, chair of the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, told reporters after the hearing the panel would press passage of the proposal once it has been fine-tuned.

OVR says services available for visually-impaired

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Director Tee Abraham is pushing for more public awareness on various forms of services available for the visually impaired in efforts to assist individuals who are in need of visual aids. "There are a lot of things that some people in the community are not aware of. They think that they have to be really blind to have access to our services," said Ms. Abraham. OVR defines low vision or visual impairment as a condition not correctable by standard glasses, contact lenses, medicine, or surgery and which interferes with the one's ability to perform everyday activities.

Sept. 6, 2001

USDA program gives better access to home ownership

Here's good news for first-time homeowners who are planning to construct new homes on their private properties or homestead lots. The regional state office of the US Department of Agriculture Rural Development has recently given the Bank of Guam the green light to provide home loan guarantees of up to $1 million for low to moderate income earners in Saipan, Tinian and Rota. This was disclosed by Rep. William S. Torres, who said that, with this development, more first-time homeowners who have low to moderate incomes can now avail themselves of this funding source in developing their private lots and homestead properties.

Thawed meat may be dangerous

Improper thawing of meat poses serious health problems, including food poisoning, the Bureau of Environmental Health disclosed yesterday. Environmental Health Technician I and Health Inspector Ken Concepcion said food handlers should be educated on how to properly thaw, clean and cook fresh and processed foods to prevent food-borne diseases and other risks. This, even as he disclosed that almost 80 percent of food handlers in the Commonwealth are properly educated and certified, making the islands' food sector in compliance with strict local and federal sanitation standards. "Concerns range from improper kitchen attire to thawing processes. Some just fill the sink with water and thaw frozen food," said Concepcion in an interview.

Sept. 6, 2002

DPH allays concern over HIV

The Department of Public Health yesterday assured those who helped the bloodied Moses Saburo-who was found near the Taro Sue store in Chinatown-that HIV/AIDS cannot be contracted by mere physical contact. "Transmission of HIV has never been documented by blood across intact skin. Even with an infected needle-stick, there is only a chance of approximately one in 10,000 being infected," said David Lowrance, the director for communicable diseases at the Commonwealth Health Center. Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente also asked people who may have any knowledge on who attacked Saburo-if he was indeed attacked-to not hesitate in contacting the police. Benavente assured that the Department of Public Safety is now doing its best to resolve this case.

Lack of tetanus vaccine hounds DPH

The Department of Public Health said its supply of tetanus vaccines remains limited due to a national shortage, but no case of tetanus has been reported so far this year in the CNMI. In its letter to the House Committee on Commerce, the department also disclosed its immunization program administers over $600,000-worth of federally funded vaccine to benefit mainly the Commonwealth's children.

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- ☑ **Gold Link Bracelets** ..... up to $2,500
- ☑ **Gold Broken Chains** ..... up to $1,000
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- ☑ **Gold Broken Bracelets** .. up to $1,500
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Trying to make sense of North Korea

If extraterrestrial creatures ever land on this planet and an intermediary is needed to meet with them, earthlings could do worse than to send former President Jimmy Carter. After his latest trip to Pyongyang to negotiate with the North Korean government, he is well-equipped to try to decipher the motives of strange aliens who do not behave according to our ideas of rationality.

Carter was able to persuade the regime of Kim Jong Il to release American Aijalon Mahli Gomes, who had been sentenced to eight years of hard labor for entering the country illegally. The harsh penalty may be attributable to the North Koreans' alarm at anyone lunatic enough to want to sneak in rather than out.

The odd thing about this visit—well, odder than most visits to the Hermit Kingdom—was that Carter came at the invitation of Kim, who apparently didn't think his visitor was important enough to stick around for. He took the occasion to absent himself to China.

As with most events involving the regime, there was a lot of idle speculation about Kim's reasons, but no useful information. One possibility is that Kim, who at age 68 is believed to be in failing health, was in a hurry to introduce his Chinese benefactors to his heir apparent, Kim Jong Un, who happens to be the Dear Leader's third son.

Apparently, the dictatorship of the proletariat relies heavily on family connections. It might surprise Karl Marx to learn that in the 21st century, rulers who claim him as inspiration, such as Kim and Fidel Castro, operate like medieval monarchs in transferring power.

Why Kim would pick his third son to succeed him rather than either of his first two is another mystery. One may have disqualified himself by traveling to Japan on a counterfeit passport, allegedly in an effort to visit Disneyland. Another has a reputation as "girlish." Son No. 3, thought to be about 27, is young, but is said to resemble his father in physique and viciousness.

The latter trait matters greatly to a regime that specializes in thuggery and threats. The latest example: the reported sinking of a South Korean naval vessel last spring in South Korean waters, an unprovoked act of war.

Although everyone knows it was the work of a North Korean submarine, hardly anyone has the stomach for military retaliation. The maddening thing is that North Korea would undoubtedly be pulverized in a war with South Korea and the United States, but the damage the nuclear-armed state could inflict while losing is too high to pay. So unless China is uncharacteristically willing to economically squeeze its client state, North Korea will probably get off easy, as it often does.

Xenophobic, bellicose and clinging to a form of government that the 20th century exposed as criminal folly, North Korea's leaders may not understand many things about the modern world. They do know the one thing they care about: how to keep their power and survive in it.

(c) 2010, Chicago Tribune.

From vision—to planning—to reality

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Daily I become increasingly furious at all the whining and lame excuses I hear about there being no opportunities to improve our economy except by becoming prostitutes and panders. By stating these two words I am referring to the kinds of activities we have been discussing to generate money. I want to emphatically state that there are other ways to rebuild our economy which we have not even considered. Read on. If I am wrong tell me so.

I challenge anyone to show me that we do not have more wholesome ways to improve our economy and our lives except by becoming prostitutes and panders. We have so many ways in which not only will money begin to circulate again but we will gain pride and respect in so doing.

As you know a prostitute sells her body for a few dollars and every time she gives herself she loses more and more of her dignity. As a result eventually she destroys her humanity and her soul. So bit by bit she becomes a zombie, devoid of feeling and a joy for life. She simply exists for the next john.

A pander is a pimp or someone who caters to people's baser instincts. He sponges off other people by gratifying their baser needs. Like a parasite, he sucks the client's blood and wallows in guilt at the low level he has sunk to. Is this what we are thinking of becoming? Are you telling me and **especially yourself** that the situation is so helpless? Where are the Chamorro and Carolinian fighting spirits? Wouldn't your forefathers and foremothers roll over in their graves in shame? How will we hold up our heads?

Start with a vision--than plan—take it to reality. The first step to rebuilding our economy is to want to. Let's study what we are doing wrong currently that the economy has sunk so low and that we have become so desperate. The main reason is that we have refused to work outside government employment.

We think that nonresident workers are inferior. They are willing to work for the small coins we throw at them? Do we consider ourselves too good to do the work they do? Oh, spare me the song about low wages. Who sets them? We do! Or is it that the freebies handed out monthly by NAP are too enticing to forgo? Are we willing to forsake our pride and dignity and resort to begging for our keep?

You mean to tell yourself that you cannot build a structure, pave a road, serve customers in hotels, operate restaurants, operate grocery stores, run auto-repair shops, and all the other necessary businesses? Are we too great to do such labor or just plain lazy? We are intelligent, but we have been spoiled by various past incidents, some our fault, some not our fault. But the past is past. Only the future is ahead and how we grasp it will determine what we become. It is time to get off our buts and DO IT!!! Vision—plan—reality!

Why do you think I started a trades school? I believe in us! I see the potential of us. Why can't you also believe in yourself? Do you realize if we wanted to in just six months, we could replace all the construction workers in Saipan and keep all the money here instead of sending it off island? Do you realize that in less than a year we can become one of the fastest growing agriculture and aquaculture industries in Asia? Do you not realize that we can operate most of the small businesses here and increase our income substantially? Think of all the jobs we will have created. Think of the boost in the economy all driven by us! Vision—plan—reality!

To raise money and to motivate our farmers and local entrepreneurs, I recommend an **import duty** on any item we can build here or can grow here such as produce or fruit. What an incentive for the farmers and builders! For example, we grow eggplant. Why import them? We grow cucumbers why import them? We grow bananas and pineapples. Why import them? Can't we grow chickens for eggs and meat here? Why import them? Yes, it is called protectism. We need the protective wall to get back on our feet. Vision—plan—reality!

Tally up all the things we can grow and build here and place an import duty on them. The net result—the money stays here instead of exporting it and importing items. At the same time we will have created an incentive to create goods, grow produce and fruit. Will someone do a rough calculation on the amount of money raised by imposing an import duty on all these items? Vision—plan-reality!

All federal construction jobs under CIP can be done using all local labor. Send to NMTI 100-200 young inexperienced men and women and in less than one year, it will turn out 100-200 trained construction workers. And they will be trained to work efficiently and with pride capable of constructing any structure.

Don't mention minimum wages because these new age workers do not know what it means. All will be paid at their skill level. Do you think I am a dreamer? Try me out! I know it can be done because we are doing it now on a smaller scale. Talk to the students at the school and ask them about this idea. Vision-plan—reality!

We have access to large sums of money, but we lack the guts to take the plunge and create our own industries. Instead, we sit and cry "poor me." We have talked about this for years but it has been talk only.

We need to bring in more tourists, but we don't know how to sell ourselves. What new approach are we using? Are we still advertising the same as we have been doing for years? This is a new age for tourists. We must use new approaches. Vision—plan—reality!

Do we realize that investors are now discouraged to come here because of no work force. But if we can show a motivated and trained local work force, many will come. Investors without using our local people will do us no economical good except for the government. It wants more tax money while you and I stand outside and smell the goodies. We reap very little in return. We must become the center of rebuilding our economy. We lack natural resources, but we have great human resources. Let's develop it and see to what

See VISION on Page 13

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Labor Day and education go hand-in-hand

By GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is a member of the U.S. Congress

Labor Day is celebrated in the Commonwealth as a time to relax and enjoy family. It also marks the beginning of the school year. And there is a strong connection between the value of labor and schooling.

Especially today, with intense competition for jobs nationally and here in Northern Marianas, those with the least education are most at risk of not finding work. We don't have exact local data, but the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that nationwide the unemployment rate for high school graduates without higher education is 11 percent, and for dropouts the rate is nearly 14 percent. By contrast, unemployment for college graduates stands at 5 percent.

Having a better education doesn't just improve the chances of finding and keeping a job, it also means you're likely to earn more. The median salary in the U.S. goes to people with an associate degree and every step up the educational ladder improves your ability to earn.

This is not to say that you need a Ph.D. to get by. In fact, while job growth overall is expected to be about 10 percent in the coming years, the Bureau predicts the number of jobs for those with an associate degree will increase almost twice as fast. Job growth for those with an associate degree will actually be greater than for those with a bachelor's degree or a professional degree.

Which means getting an A.A. is a smart step if you plan to be in the labor market.

We're fortunate to have Northern Marianas College, which makes it possible to get an associate degree without leaving home. And, as a matter of policy, we should do everything we can to support the College and help anyone who wants to study there and earn a degree.

That's one of the reasons I voted for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act last year. ARRA raised the Pell Grant that most NMC students rely on from $4,731 to $5,350, and created a new $2,500 tuition tax credit to help families with college students.

And that's why I joined 22 of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives as an original co-sponsor of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. That bill was bundled into the health care reform legislation and became law in March. SAFRA raised the Pell Grant again to a maximum of $5,550 for the 2010-11 school year with cost of living increases in following years.

SAFRA also makes tuition loans more affordable by cutting out the middleman and by putting a cap on how much of a graduate's annual income can be tapped for repayment. And NMC is eligible for $7.5 million under SAFRA as our share of the College Access Challenge Grant program that aims to increase the number of low-income students who enter and succeed in college.

The 25 percent increase in enrollment at the College over the last few weeks may indicate that these incentives are having the desired effect. No doubt, the realization that education is the key to success in the labor market is also having an impact on the decision of more of our people to get more schooling.

It's an encouraging trend, reflected not just at the College, but also at the Northern Marianas Trade Institute, which promoted over 100 students last week. As your representative in Congress, I have supported NMTI and its students, too, by getting them a $200,000 earmarked appropriation for book, equipment, and staff.

We need a well-educated, well-trained labor force if we want to be a prosperous people 30, 40, 50 years ahead. By continually pursuing education and training we are making a better life for ourselves, our families, and our Commonwealth.

Happy Labor Day!

Labor Day

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

Suffer not the laborers to come unto me, could very well be the line for today, easily attributable to James, son of Zebedee, or Joseph the "son of David, husband of the handmaiden of God," or Benedict of the famed Monte Cassino monastery, but invest it with sacred symbols, organized labor and awakened workers are still untrustworthy Commies in the eyes of many in the capitalist world.

Today is Labor Day in the United States, a federal holiday observed on the first Monday in September. All 50 States observed this as a State holiday. The 1886 Haymarket Massacre in Chicago condemned eight innocent anarchist and spawned May Day, the international workers day of labor unions. Avoiding that identification, after workers were officially gunned down in the 1894 Pullman Strike, (Indiana legislator Eugene V. Debs was convicted of inciting a riot and after reading Marx in prison became a Socialist), Pres. Cleveland and Congress took on NYC'sLabor Day fest and made it a federal holiday. NYC's communal affirmation of the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations would turn nationwide into an affair of parades and family feasts. Houses of worship followed, with Protestant-influenced work ethic from John Calvin, the renegade French humanist turned theologian John Calvin in Geneva, making the Sunday before as Labor Day Sunday.

Labor Day in North America marks the end of summer, a day of rest and parties, and in the tradition of the coliseum, sports. NFL and NCAA football officially launches the week before Labor Day. NASCAR and the Southern 500 (Indy 500 is Memorial Day in May), a quintessential American testosterone display, is a four-day weekend this year!

Our island's biggest employer is government. The Labor Day bash was once litter time to no end, but today's austerity measure will see a marked decline in bentos and BBQs. When people gather, political speeches are not too far behind, especially on an election year. The candidates for the U.S. Congress will be making the rounds today. This familiar line applies: "Daddy, do all fairy tales begin with Once Upon a Time?" Reply: "No dear, today it begins with If elected, I promise . . ."

The clash of organized labor and corporate capital, notwithstanding, there is something patently human about acts of physical, emotional and mental expenditure. It is in the nature of things that life begets life, that in the exertion of effort ensues the production of an extension of one's self. Work is love in action, Einstein called it. Being of service is a biological necessity, is Caroline Myss' pearl of wisdom.

The sense of value added to resources produced into consumer goods is the primary economic consideration, and the value of services provided on least time, minimum effort but with most benefits is the focus of professional training. Labor is the fruit of one's expenditure and its monetary equivalent the value of accumulated selfhood. The issue of labor is the issue of self and the freedom of self-expression.

That is, of course, hardly today's case. The Levant frowned on usury because one inequitably gains from the efforts of another. In public markets, lenders make cash available to daily vendors at 5/6. The five one gets in the morning becomes six returned at the end of the day. Credit unions and cooperatives are set up to regulate interest rates, but this is a pittance compared to banks. As recently experienced in the United States, unregulated banks make one feel like they are doing you a favor for holding your money, and take you to the cleaners when you are most in need. (Hey, Wells Fargo, where are you going? Oh, like HSBC and Citibank! I see.) When bankers act like bookies and gamblers, and lose big time, take a big bath from the likes of George Soros, government bails them out!

Somewhere along the line, the worship of finance developed; we adore net gain more than the pleasure of adding value to resource and professionalizing service. Labor is reduced to getting a paycheck. Bean counters, I mean, accountants our new patron saints. Training one's self to produce is no longer the issue, we do not apprentice to learn a trade. We learn to fulfill a role within a centralized economic system, the factory line model the norm. We endure repetitive behavior. We get standardized to meet industry measures. We are not fulfilling self-expenditure entrepreneurs. We are employees.

Labor in the CNMI—garments, tourism, clerks, nannies, and farmers, etc.—are an exploited class, and education's"student first" vows to teach us the dignity of labor, but cowed teachers willingly play possum in the factory line, two years at a time.

An egalitarian acquaintance bragged about patronizing only former garment factory workers in Garapan. We asked how one determined that. He said, check for the dark blotch on the dagan for sitting too long before sewing machines. We took his word for it.

The issue of labor today is distributive justice, however one slices the economic pie. The economy dare not program unemployment! Labor's compensation awaits decent living wages, and work needs to issue into meaningful products and services. Honest work, equitable pay. Alas, that remains to be a future celebration!

'Nai mamamaila Un' Ira

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John S. DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

Iguaka gi pastahe kulan ma'ayeg kumu tentagu na guaha dañkulu na ira mamamaila. Sige pagu man-impirau gi halom kolat antes de u fattu un' dañkulu na linau. Ti u fañgetu estake mattu ennau na ira.

I tautau ti manae' nu este na fuetsa. Lau manae iluña. Mapega gi hilu apagaña ya mana' talag mena. Siña ha lie' mona, ha huñgog buruka siha gi oriyaña, man-hassu hafa para u chogue, yan kumuentos.

Libianu ha lie' i ira ni esta mattu gi entalo'ta, lau kulan ta suhon gi un' banda pot no ta fan mapot. Este na ira Iran Diskuido. Sige ha suhongue halom gi pettan gima'ta.

Kulan un' milag sadog ni appan gi anaghu na tiempon somnag. Huñgan, añgoghu na anaghu este na appan ya tinaka trenta años para estake u nalu tatte.

Yangin u mas didog este na ira, siempre lamegai na guma nina' fan salakumba sin ditension. Megai para u fan mamadese.

Man-tinane' hit ni picnic yan barbecu maseha kimasoson atuf gima'ta. Na chatsaga na maña piot gi halom i manma-elihe sa' kontodo siha duru man-picnic.

■ ■ ■ ■

'Nai kohu i fondun publiku, lamegai na empleau gobietnu siempre u fan maribaha mas sueddon niha. Gi uttimu, megai siempre umana' fan basta gi chechu' niha.

Mampos sumen nachatsaga este na linau. Kau ma-utot 'sino mana' para i tautau gi checho'ña, megai u fan maliñgu abilidat niha man-manapase kuentan obligasion familia.

I kuestion: Hafa na fina' ayudu siña man-manae' este siha na tautauta?

I obligasion man-ma-elihe parehu yan obligasion Moses. Debi u kone tautauña huyoñg ginen plaset esklabu guatu gi fina' yanu na fina' manana para u tutuhon siha dinuebu. Hu nanañga haye este na Moses gi halom man-magasta.

Yangin ti doku' este na Moses pagu na sakan, pues man-machalapun tautauta 'nai kada unu kunsu kaprichoña. Yahu limie' este na Moses i siña muna' fan safu tautauta gi halom sumen didog na linau diskuidu ni tatnai talie' antes.

■ ■ ■ ■

Gi kanton chalan, guaha siha fina' tablon fina señat ni fumanunuhi hit direksion yan abisu gi karerata mona.

Kulan chinatsaga guine ni mafañagu deste mediu nobenta siha na sakan 'nai umanog señat hafa mamamaila'. Gi mapos na siñko años gaige ha' talu na mas seriosu i señat chinatsaga ni para ta fan pinalopu'. Ni unu pumetsige planu hafa mauleg para u fan mapetsige para umareskata hafa tetehnan gi ekonomian tano'ta.

Mampos silensiu i tanu natibu na esta na' tañga. I man-magasta man-bulachuña ke tautau gi señgsoñg siha. Buente mampos kanifes i aire guihe hulu na taya' seriosu na planu mapetsisige pot satbasion i tautau ni marepresesenta.

I mayoria (Covenant, Independent yan un' Republican) masubre sueddon niha. Gi mismu tiempu ma-utot todu i mas man-kritikat na setbisiun publiko siha tat kumu PSS yan NMC. Lastima i inañgoghu ni ta pega giya siha. Mafa' si kopas nesessidat famaguonta mientras mana' bula mas buchin niha.

Señores yan señoras, i publiku ti ignorante 'sino inosiente ni malabidan miyu kontra haanen niha. U fattu tareaña mamatinas disision gi ti apmam yan pagu.

■ ■ ■ ■

I otru seriosu na linachen mayoria gi sanpapa' na guma lehislagura i inaprueban priniponen casino para iya Saipan. Mahasñgon madagau ñaihon gi un' banda i sentimienton mayotmente gi publiku ni pot dos besis ha punu este na ginagau gi alacha.

Lau buenu sa' machapunu i dos ginagau pot casino guine gi mapos na semana ni sanhilu na guma lehislatura. Ta nanae un' mit grasias i Senate pot klaru ha onra hafa dinisehan tautau Saipan gi este na industria pot dos botasion.

Hagas mamoble tautauta. Lau ni unu bumende onroña gi chechu minamahlau para u libianu. Este finanaguen guelu yan guela. Mauleg ta ekuñgog klaru ya ta fan eyag dinuebu sensian hinimidde ginen finanaguen man-mofona.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

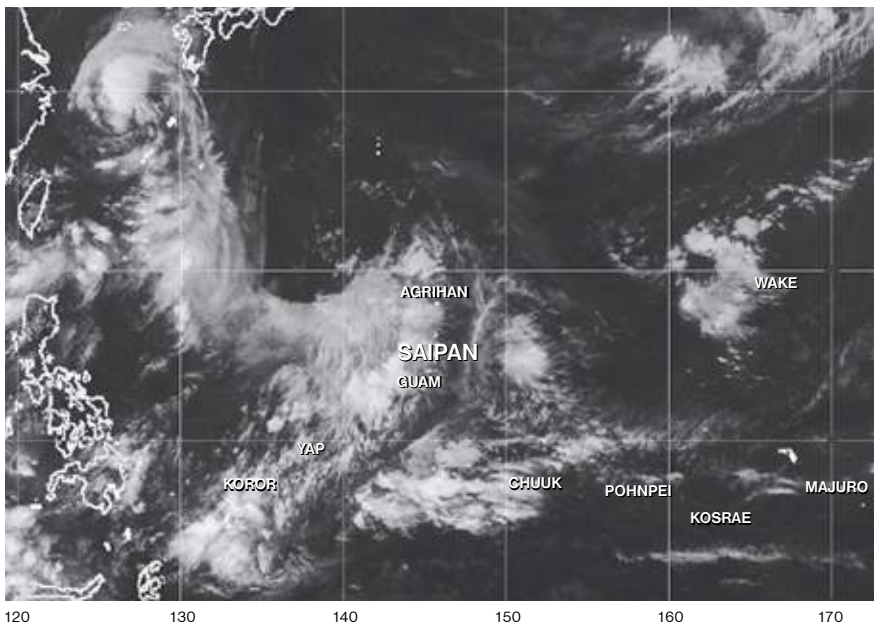
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84	▼78
Palau	Rain	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲90	▼76
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼55
Beijing	Showers	▲82	▼63
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼73
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼56
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲74	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Melbourne	Sunny	▲60	▼41
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
New York	Sunny	▲80	▼65
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲93	▼78
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼53
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Rome	Sunny	▲84	▼63
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼54
San Francisco	Sunny	▲68	▼56
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼74
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲85	▼68

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low-level convergent flow to the southeast of Tropical Storm Malou (10W) centered near 27N128E or 40 miles north-northwest of Okinawa is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of a line from 25N132E to 20N139E. For more information on Tropical Storm Malou, see bulletins from JTWC under WMO header WTPN33 PGTW. Upper-level divergence near an upper-level low north of the Marianas at 23N143E is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across the CNMI between 14N and 20N from 131E to 152E. Another upper low just north of Wake Island at 20N167E is producing isolated thunderstorms west of the island within 120 miles of 19N164E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of the Marianas within 80 miles of a line from 11N144E to 15N150E near Koror within 100 miles of a line from 7N133E to 5N136E to 5N141E across Chuuk within 80 miles of a line from 7N146E to 8N152E north of Kosrae and near Kwajalein between 7N and 12N from 160E to 169E and northeast of Majuro within 70 miles of a line from 10N176E to 11N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:33 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:50 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
6:42 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:26 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:25 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:26 AM	4:29 PM
Tuesday	4:28 AM	5:17 PM
Wednesday	5:30 AM	6:04 PM
Thursday	6:31 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	7:32 AM	7:36 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Letters to the Editor

An honest people

There is a saying that "you can't play on an honest man"—meaning you can't trick an honest person out of their money with some kind of scheme. Well, guess what—many voters of the CNMI are being "played" like a Stradivarius Violin because they are not being honest to the CNMI. Just look at the situation we are in and YES, we voted ourselves into this mess. The majority of we the people have allowed politicians to get away with tactics of fear using the feds, culture, and land. It should be obvious the majority of voters have taken this bait too often hook line and sinker—we are literally like fish out of water now when it comes to our social, economic, and political conditions.

I'm writing about issues of voter education because I care more about the CNMI than I do about any politician and I was hired by the CNMI to teach your children about government, citizenship, and politics. So if I'm good enough for your children I should be good enough for the adults but we the people know that is not the case with some adult voters in the CNMI. I have taught students the way to determine the best candidates for over 20 years using the "formal & informal requirements for electing officials" yet many voters seem to not be aware of these basic formulas, which is the true scientific approach to voting—that's why we call the study of government political science. It is critical that voters in the CNMI become smarter with a better understanding of how to get the best government officials possible on Capitol Hill and in Washington. I truly believe in the power of education and I just happen to truly believe that we can do more and we can do better if we elect the best officials with the most potential for success.

I'm sure many voters will agree that we have not chose wisely as our poor social, economic, and political situation is what we get when the majority makes a wrong decision. Our poor situation is why I'm trying to educate voters about the delegate race before it is too late again! I'm tired of suffering because of fellow voters making poor choices. I'm tired of our economy continuing to disintegrate and the only thing we are getting from Capital Hill is more cuts and fewer work days. I'm tired of the high CUC billings and no one is putting anything in play to give us some relief. I'm tired of NMC floundering when it is vital to our future that NMC become a four-year institution—so goes PSS and NMC, so goes the CNMI.

TOO many voters are not being honest and serious about their vote and they become easy prey to be played upon. The selection of the person you vote for is suppose to be an intellectual process but we have some politicians who are quite skillful at playing on the emotions of local voters using the feds, culture, and land as their pry bar of fear along with rumors, insinuations and accusations over the plan and simple facts. Choosing a candidate is almost the same as selecting someone for a job but too many voters are not applying this simple and novel concept that is use to select CEOs who make millions. We are choosing our elected officials the same way many people get a job in the CNMI, by your family connection or your political connections. You can also suffer for the same reason of family and your political connection. This phenomenon has many of the voters in government scared to death figuratively because they know if they support the wrong person or party they are out of work or they won't get a job! The sad part is too many voters are still afraid even in the voting booth so instead of voting for whom they think or even know is best they vote based on fear. When we the people don't elect the person who can do the best job we get the poor social and economic conditions we have today people—wake up voters, duh!

I don't know about everyone else but I am tired of these bad times and I want the best person working for the CNMI and every citizen. It is not a requirement to personally "like" a person to give them your vote which seems to be a misguided belief of many voters. We can always find a reason not to like a person. We are all human and fallen short of perfection on many occasions, which really takes perfection out of the equation for selecting a candidate.

I think every citizen, student, and child who is aware of our economic situation knows we need new money sources as I mentioned in my previous letter on the "Bread Winner." I wonder have voters really asked themselves why the powers that be on Capitol Hill are only talking about a casino to turn our economy around. I believe it is because they have decided for us that we will have casinos and by not offering anything else we will have to settle for the casinos eventually—we call this being played on in my culture. But thankfully there have been enough honest people in the CNMI and especially in the Senate to withstand the shady temptation of a pie-in-the-sky, get-rich scheme for casinos as there are no quick or singular solutions to all of our challenges. Kudos to the Senate for exercising the wisdom expected of senior legislators in the Upper House—now we have a chance for real economic reforms.

I still believe the majority of voters in the CNMI are honest people, but many of them are weakened by their cultural expectations and being led by the wrong leader(s). The last election proved the phenomenon that if you get the most leaders on your side you win—it didn't matter that these same leaders were diametrically opposed to each other prior to the run-off and that's a fact. Voters must be smarter for themselves as for the most part it is an "individual choice" unless you are committed to a party or political group that has made a collective decision. But some voters aren't even true to their own party so you know they can't be true to the CNMI when they vote. The poor voting practices is causing the destruction of the CNMI's future and hopes because every day a student leaves the CNMI with plans to find their American Dream on the mainland—not here. This phenomenon is why I have been saying for years that NMC is so critical to the entire future of the CNMI. In fact, I can easily predict that if NMC does not move forward and become a four year college that the CNMI will continue to remain in a conundrum with its workforce.

The facts clearly show if voters will do their homework that there is only one candidate for the U.S. Delegate with the experience and qualification in politics, economics, healthcare, and education we need but will voters vote based on the facts or who they like. This is about being honest to the Commonwealth and not pleasing yourself for vengeance or any personal reason—we call this an act of Civic Virtue in Academia. Voters should be focusing their decision on the following informal requirements: education, experience, track record of accomplishments, political connections and political power, vision or plan and capacity for success, motivation (are they a true public servant?), and statue and status in politics and society for leadership potential.

While I'm on the subject of vengeance and personal reasons for voting among the people, it is no secret the GOP has become a divided party with hold-outs driven by their personal preference. History should have taught the GOP about party loyalty that gave rise to the Covenant Party and the recent string of GOP losses in the political game. In fact, I heard about some Covenant Party leaders even bragging and laughing about the division in the GOP being their biggest strength, not their platform or their candidates—wake up GOP!

The GOP has become its own worse-enemy adversely affecting itself and the entire political future of the CNMI. There will always be differences within the GOP, especially among those vying for office but the working members should remain focused on the BIG picture, not on individuals. But to show you what I mean some GOP members are still hung-up on the differences between Babauta and Heinz when Heinz has left the CNMI and Babauta is still fighting to make a difference-duh! The CNMI really needs the GOP united as we have a saying in my culture that might help the GOP and the CNMI, "Be true to the game and the game will be true to you". The CNMI needs more honest voters for the CNMI and not votes for personal satisfaction. We need a strong united people and leadership to get through these challenging times and that's pure wisdom. I truly hope this bit of wisdom will help the GOP and all citizens to become smarter, more honest and true to the CNMI in the game of politics because the CNMI really needs to be one people voting for the one person who has the best chances to get the job done.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman

Collective bargaining myth

Sometimes one lashes out thoughts so annoying that it becomes a gamble of whether the manifested wisdom is one marked by subjective truth or objective reality.

One in such case is Mr. Ambrose Bennett's assertion that the PSS teachers could just flash its demand to bargain and the whole process should be given unconditional blessings by the Board of Education of the Public School System.

There is no "collective bargaining" law in the CNMI government that would make that possible. No constitutional right of teachers or any public employee in the CNMI government is possible if the CNMI government does not enact a law allowing collective bargaining by and between public employees and competent authorities within the governmental jurisdictions.

In this respect that I would dump such thoughts faster than the Indonesian currency. What else to argue than to tell Mr. Bennett to check his point of view carefully. Hence, appointing a teacher representative member to the BOE will not happen until such time the CNMI government elects to dilute its sovereignty of governance in collective bargaining processes and procedures.

Also, it is necessary to point out to Mr. Bennett that only 9 percent of public sector employees in the U.S. are either member of or represented by labor unions.

Public sector union representation is losing favor and for as long as there is a GOP in the political spectrum in the U.S., union proliferation has its challenge. So, the "public interest" in the CNMI in regards to public sector collective bargaining is consistent with the 91 percent of non-union public sector employees in the states and commonwealths in the U.S.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa

VISION

From Page 10

heights we can ascend.

I could go on and on about what we can do to improve our economy and ourselves. But let me stop here and ask you to challenge me. Tell me we are at a dead end and there are no more ways except to resort to pandering. Call me a foolish dreamer. Tell me we have to become prostitutes and panders to become economically strong. Tell me we cannot do anything to help ourselves. Vision—plan—reality!

Call me and let's discuss the many ways we help ourselves. I am willing to discuss this subject in greater detail. My number is 287-8310. I await your call. Visit the "oasis of hope" at NMTI and let's discuss in greater detail. Turn the dreams into visions.

I truly believe that you and I hold our future in our hands. Once we become skilled and motivated, we will become a prosperous nation with dignity and pride. We must become a nation of workers.

If a person goes to work with a firm determination to give of himself the best of what he is capable, that job, no matter what it is, takes on a new dignity and importance. As Martin Luther King Jr. once wrote: "All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence." Let the visions begin! Vision—planning—reality!

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-10-2302

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

For: Representation, Promotion and Public Relations Services for the Korea Market

Closing Date: September 30, 2010 Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 10008. Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work and application for local preference at the Marianas Visitors Authority office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, P&S

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-10-2304

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

For: Happy Children In Paradise Campaign Saipan-da Backpacks

Closing Date: September 14, 2010 Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 10008, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work and application for local preference at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by emailing the **MVA** at mva@mymarianas.com.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, P&S

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the General Public that due to unforeseen circumstances the Board of Parole scheduled Executive Meeting and Parole Hearing for September 8 & 9, 2010, at the Vicente Taman Seman Building, Department of Corrections Briefing/Training Room is hereby postpone to further notice.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the Board of Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300 or 3303. We apologize for the inconvenience this may have caused.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman of the Board

CPA board approves expansion of airport's temporary runway

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

While the $13-million rehabilitation of the main runway is expected to get underway, bigger aircraft will have access to an expanded temporary runway at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

This after the board of the Commonwealth Ports Authority approved to expand the planned temporary runway project so that it could accommodate incoming and outgoing flights when repairs start at the main runway.

The Federal Aviation Administration already green-lighted the funding for the rehabilitation of the main airport runway at the Saipan airport, but this will not commence until a temporary runway is completed.

According to CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, Delta Airlines—one of the signatory airlines in the CNMI—is concerned that its larger aircraft cannot make the necessary turnaround at the temporary runway and requested an expansion of the rehab work.

He said Delta Airlines agreed to use Runway 6/24 for take off of their 757 aircraft during the early morning flight, allowing the contractor more time to work on the rehabilitation of the main runway. However, Delta's concern is when the wind changes its aircraft will need to take off from Runway 24.

"Currently, with no turnaround at Runway 24, maneuvering their aircraft will be difficult not to mention may put stress on pavement of this temporary runway," said Deleon Guerrero, adding that due to this CPA needs to ask the FAA to include the design of the turnaround to the project.

He said the design for the turnaround has been submitted to FAA for review and approval and initial feedback was the federal agency is willing to fund the additional cost as part of the project.

"We want this project [main runway rehabilitation] to move on…and we cannot do it without completing first the temporary runways and now with the turnaround," explained Deleon Guerrero to the board.

Saipan Tribune learned that design for the turnaround will be conducted by the same project contractor—GPPC Inc.

It was learned that design work for the turnaround costs over $180,000 and construction will take 21 weeks, according to CPA.

The airport's main runway is close to 25 years old. The runway project also include improving the runway safety areas to meet new aviation standards by relocating the existing water catchment reservoir and expanding the areas near the runway and parallel taxiway.

FAA provided $4 million for the rehabilitation of the temporary airport runway.

The creation of the temporary runway is to give way to the major repair and rehabilitation of the main runway. Bid for the project cost is over $13 million and the notice to proceed was issued in September 2009. Until the temporary runway is certified, work will not commence on the main project.

SOFTBALL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S. Delegate candidates Juan N. Babauta (Republican), Jesus C. Borja (Democrat), and Joseph Norita Camacho (Covenant) share a moment to take a photo together. The candidates were in Kent, Washington for the 6th Annual CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament. Each year the tournament gets bigger. This year 32 teams are competing in the three-day long tournament. The CNMI residents are coming from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Arizona, Nevada, Louisiana, Texas, and two teams from the CNMI. Attendance by players, families, friends, and supporter are estimated ar over 3,000. Incumbent Rep. Gregorio Kilili Sablan was also at event but not in the photo.

KKA to host magic show

The Kagman Komunidat Association will be hosting the Saipan Magic Show. The show will take place on Saturday, Sept. 11, 7pm at the Kagman Community Center.

Tickets are only $10. For every four tickets that are purchased, the fifth ticket will be free. Magic Ryan from Guam will be performing amazing magic tricks which involve magic ropes, cards, and levitation.

Magic Ryan has been performing magic acts for many years in Hawaii and Guam and children enjoy watching his magic shows. Children from the audience will also get a chance to be a part of the magic show. Seating is limited. Proceeds will go to the Kagman Komunidat Association. KKA is a nonprofit group which helps empower the community of Kagman. ***(PR)***

Friends of the Monument join call for coral reef conservation

The Friends of the Monument and 34 other non-governmental organizations and environmental stakeholders have issued a letter today calling for the U.S. Senate to pass strong conservation-minded coral reef legislation.

This is in response to the latest *Status of the Coral Reefs of the World*, which stated that almost 20 percent of the planet's coral reefs have been lost and an additional 35 percent are threatened.

Published in 2008, the latest *Status of the Coral Reefs of the World* includes the expert opinion of 372 coral reef scientists and managers from 96 countries.

Aside from Friends of the Mariana Trench Monument, other groups that signed the letter to the U.S. Senate include leading organizations such as the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL), International Society for Reef Studies, Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Surfrider Foundation, Greenpeace USA, Environmental Defense Fund, World Wildlife Fund, and Coastal States Organization.

The U.S. House version of the reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act passed in September of last year. Further movement of the legislation now depends on the U.S. Senate.

The Coral Reef Conservation Act authorizes grants for coral reef conservation activities. Funds are awarded under six program categories: State and Territory Coral Reef Management; State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring; Coral Reef Ecosystem Research; Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans; General Coral Reef Conservation; and International Coral Reef Conservation.

The coalition expressed alarm about the declining health of coral reef ecosystems and the threats coral reefs face. Major threats noted include coastal runoff, over-fishing and over-harvesting, vessel impacts, invasive species, and coral bleaching, disease, and ocean acidification caused by unregulated greenhouse gas pollution.

Measures before Congress, supported by the coalition, include provisions to increase the status of protection for corals in all U.S. waters, increase funding for coral reef conservation efforts, provide support to better understand and manage the trade in coral reef wildlife, and support community based approaches to coral reef stewardship, among others.

"Coral reef ecosystems face growing threats from over-fishing, habitat destruction, poor water quality and disease," said Dr. Andrew Baker, a coral reef biologist at the University of Miami and a 2008 Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation. "When you add the devastating impacts of our carbon dioxide emissions, which lead to warmer and more acidic oceans, coral reefs worldwide are left reeling from the impacts. The decline of coral reef ecosystems worldwide underscores the need for Congress to pass coral reef legislation, while also renewing its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas pollution."

"These valuable and fascinating ecosystems are disappearing within our lifetimes, and their loss will have significant economic, social, and environmental consequences in the United States and worldwide," said Steven Lutz, Executive Director of Blue Climate Solutions, the group that organized the coalition effort. "The Senate has a fantastic opportunity to protect and conserve coral reefs by passing this important legislation." ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Birthday greetings go out to Angelina Tamanreng of Joeten Ace Hardware who is celebrating her birthday. Greetings from her co-employees.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to Joni Castro. Hope you enjoyed your day and many more birthdays to come. Greetings from Randall, Aunty Rit, friends, and family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Grandma Lillian. More blessings and many more birthdays to come!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Earl's biggest damage in Northeast: business

YARMOUTH, Mass. (AP)—In the end, Earl's worst damage in New England was to seasonal businesses hoping to end their summer on a high note.

The tropical storm, far less intense than feared, brushed past the Northeast and dumped heavy, wind-driven rain on Cape Cod cottages and fishing villages but caused little damage.

It left clear, blue skies in its wake. It was the perfect start to a Labor Day weekend that Cape Cod's restaurants and hotels hoped to salvage after business was decimated ahead of the storm.

"This traditionally for us is a sellout weekend," said Voula Nikolakopoulos, one of the owners of Tidewater Inn in West Yarmouth, where business was down 80 percent. "I understand that we have to be careful, but I think all this hype was premature."

Massachusetts suffered a few hundred power outages, a handful of downed power lines and isolated flooding. Maine saw rain and churning surf but no gusts strong enough to produce damage.

Serafina Kitchen
CROMER'S MONTAUK MARKET
OPEN
DUE TO THE UNLIMITED VISIT FROM MY MAIN MAN EARL, WE WILL BE CLOSING EARLY FRIDAY EVENING. GOOD LUCK AND GOD BLESS
BAKERY
COFFEE

AP

Windows are taped at Cromer's Montauk Market in preparation for Hurricane Earl in Montauk, N.Y., Friday, Sept. 3, 2010.

After skimming past North Carolina and Massachusetts, Earl finally made landfall Saturday morning near Western Head, Nova Scotia. It was blamed for the death of a man who drowned while trying to secure his boat after it became loose from its mooring off a bay near Halifax.

The storm brought heavy sheets of rain and swift gusts, toppling some trees and knocking out power to more than 200,000 customers in Nova Scotia. There were numerous flight and ferry cancellations. Police said the road to the popular Peggy's Cove tourist site near Halifax was closed to keep curious storm-watchers away from the dangerous, pounding surf.

As of 4 p.m. EDT, Earl's center was in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and was moving northeast at 52 mph. The Canadian Hurricane Center issued a tropical storm warning for parts of Newfoundland.

Earl had swooped into New England waters Friday night as a tropical storm with winds of 70 mph after sideswiping North Carolina's Outer Banks, where it caused flooding but no injuries and little damage. The rain it brought to Cape Cod, Nantucket Island and Martha's Vineyard was more typical of the nor'easters that residents have been dealing with for generations.

Winds on Nantucket blew at around 30 mph, with gusts above 40 mph. The island got more than 2 inches of rain, while adjacent Martha's Vineyard got more than 4 inches. Hyannis, home to the Kennedy family compound, got about 4.5 inches.

Peter Judge, spokesman for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, said the damage was so minimal that the agency didn't send out assessment teams as planned Saturday.

"There's nothing to assess at this point," he said. "It wasn't even a really bad rainstorm."

Worries about Earl had altered holiday weekend plans up and down the East Coast.

Boaters pulled their vessels from the water, shopkeepers boarded up their windows and vacationers canceled reservations. Some hoteliers reported that business was way off.

Nikolakopoulos said her hotel was at 100 percent occupancy last year on Labor Day weekend. On Friday night, it was at about 20 percent. She was hoping to recapture some of lost business with a storm special that cut rates from an average of about $130 to an average of $85.

Kishor Patel, owner of the Super 8 in West Yarmouth, said a number of people who had two-day reservations canceled when word of Earl started to spread. Business was down 60 to 70 percent, he said.

JetBlue: Flight attendant's big exit was for good

NEW YORK (AP)—Sometimes there's no going back.

JetBlue Airways says that there will be no second exits for famed flight attendant Steven Slater—who captured the nation's imagination with his profanity-laced loudspeaker tirade and jump down a plane's emergency chute, beer in hand.

Slater

Spokeswoman Jenny Dervin said Saturday that Slater is no longer employed by the airline. She said the airline won't release further details out of respect for Slater's privacy.

Slater's lawyer had said he loved flying and wanted to return to work, and Slater's folk-hero status among tens of thousands of online fans had led some of them to urge the airline to keep him on.

The airline said at the time of the incident last month that Slater was suspended pending an investigation. It told employees in a memo that press coverage was not taking into account how much harm can be caused by emergency slides, which are deployed with a potentially deadly amount of force.

The former flight attendant still has to navigate the criminal justice system. He's been charged with criminal mischief, reckless endangerment and trespassing; his lawyer has said a passenger's "lack of civility" prompted his behavior.

Despite Slater's online popularity, some passengers came forward to criticize him as brusque and cranky throughout the 90-minute trip from Pittsburgh to New York. One passenger portrayed Slater as the instigator, saying he cursed without provocation at a woman who had asked about her bag.

His employment status was first reported by the NBC New York website.

Key oil spill evidence raised to Gulf's surface

ON THE GULF OF MEXICO (AP)—A crane hoisted a key piece of oil spill evidence to the surface of the Gulf of Mexico on Saturday, giving investigators their first chance to personally scrutinize the blowout preventer, the massive piece of equipment that failed to stop the gusher four months ago.

It took 29 1/2 hours to lift the 50-foot, 300-ton blowout preventer from a mile beneath the sea to the surface. The five-story high device breached the water's surface at 6:54 p.m. CDT, and looked largely intact with black stains on the yellow metal.

FBI agents were among the 137 people aboard the Helix Q4000 vessel, taking photos and video of the device. They will escort it back to a NASA facility in Louisiana for analysis.

The AP was the only news outlet with a print reporter and photographer on board the ship.

The blowout preventer was placed into a metal contraption specifically designed to hold the massive device at 9:16 p.m. CDT Saturday. As it was maneuvered into place, crew members were silent and water dripped off the device.

Crews had been delayed raising the device after icelike crystals—called hydrates—formed on it. The device couldn't be safely lifted from the water until the hydrates melted because the hydrates are combustible, said Darin Hilton, the captain of the Helix Q4000.

AP

In this image taken from video provided by BP PLC at 12:23 a.m. EDT, Saturday, Sept. 4, 2010 shows the blowout preventer that failed to stop oil from spewing into the Gulf of Mexico being raised to the surface.

Hydrates form when gases such as methane mix with water under high pressure and cold temperatures. The crystals caused BP PLC problems in May, when hydrates formed on a 100-ton, four-story dome the company tried to place over the leak to contain it.

As a large hatch opened up on the Helix to allow the blowout preventer to pass through, several hundred feet of light sheen could be seen near the boat, though crews weren't exactly sure what it was.

The April 20 explosion aboard the Deepwater Horizon killed 11 workers and led to 206 million gallons of oil spewing from BP PLC's undersea well.

Investigators know the explosion was triggered by a bubble of methane gas that escaped from the well and shot up the drill column, expanding quickly as it burst through several seals and barriers before igniting.

But they don't know exactly how or why the gas escaped. And they don't know why the blowout preventer didn't seal the well pipe at the sea bottom after the eruption, as it was supposed to. While the device didn't close—or may have closed partially—investigative hearings have produced no clear picture of why it didn't plug the well.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Burger King to stop buying oil from Indonesian co.

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Environmentalists on Saturday praised Burger King's decision to stop buying palm oil from an Indonesian company accused of destroying rainforests. The U.S. hamburger chain giant—which recently sealed a deal to sell itself for $3.26 billion to 3G Capital—said Friday that it was canceling its contract with PT Sinar Mas Agro Resources and Technology over concerns it had not adopted sustainable farming practices. It cited an independent audit that found the company's plantations had violated several regulations, including planting in some peatland swamps and secondary forests.

Afghans continue pulling money from troubled bank

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Nervous Afghans pulled more deposits out of the nation's largest bank despite assurances from government leaders that their money was safe. Crowds gathered Saturday at Kabul Bank branches around the capital to withdraw dollar and Afghan currency savings, with customers saying they had lost faith in the bank's solvency following a change in leadership and reports that tens of millions of dollars had been lent to political elites for risky real estate investments. "Kabul Bank has lost the trust of the people. Even the chairman resigned so all the people are concerned," said Mohammad Nawaz, head of an Afghan aid group who had tried for three hours to withdraw the $15,000 in his account.

Farms being prosecuted for importing Thai workers

HONOLULU (AP)—Two prominent, popular brothers who operate the second-largest vegetable farm in Hawaii will be sentenced in federal court this week on human trafficking charges—they pleaded guilty—but two former state governors, community groups, fellow farmers and other supporters are trying to keep them out of prison. The brothers were convicted of shipping 44 laborers from Thailand and forcing them to work on their farm, part of a pipeline to the United States that allegedly cornered foreign field hands into low-paying jobs with few rights. Aloun Farms may be too important to fail in an island state that once relied on pineapples and sugar cane but grows less than 15 percent of the food it consumes, according to supporters of defendants Alec and Mike Sou.

Nation

For US Muslims, a 9/11 anniversary like no other

NEW YORK (AP)—American Muslims are boosting security at mosques, seeking help from leaders of other faiths and airing ads underscoring their loyalty to the United States—all ahead of a 9/11 anniversary they fear could bring more trouble for their communities.

Their goal is not only to protect Muslims, but also to prevent them from retaliating if provoked. One Sept. 11 protest in New York against the proposed mosque near ground zero is expected to feature Geert Wilders, the aggressively anti-Islam Dutch lawmaker. The same day in Gainesville, Fla., the Dove World Outreach Center plans to burn copies of the Quran.

"We can expect crazy people out there will do things, but we don't want to create a hysteria," among Muslims, said Victor Begg of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Michigan. "Americans, in general, they support pluralism. It's just that there's a lot of misinformation out there that has created confusion."

On Tuesday, the Islamic Society of North America will hold a summit of Christian, Muslim and Jewish leaders in Washington "to address the growing tide of fear and intolerance" in the furor over the planned New York mosque.

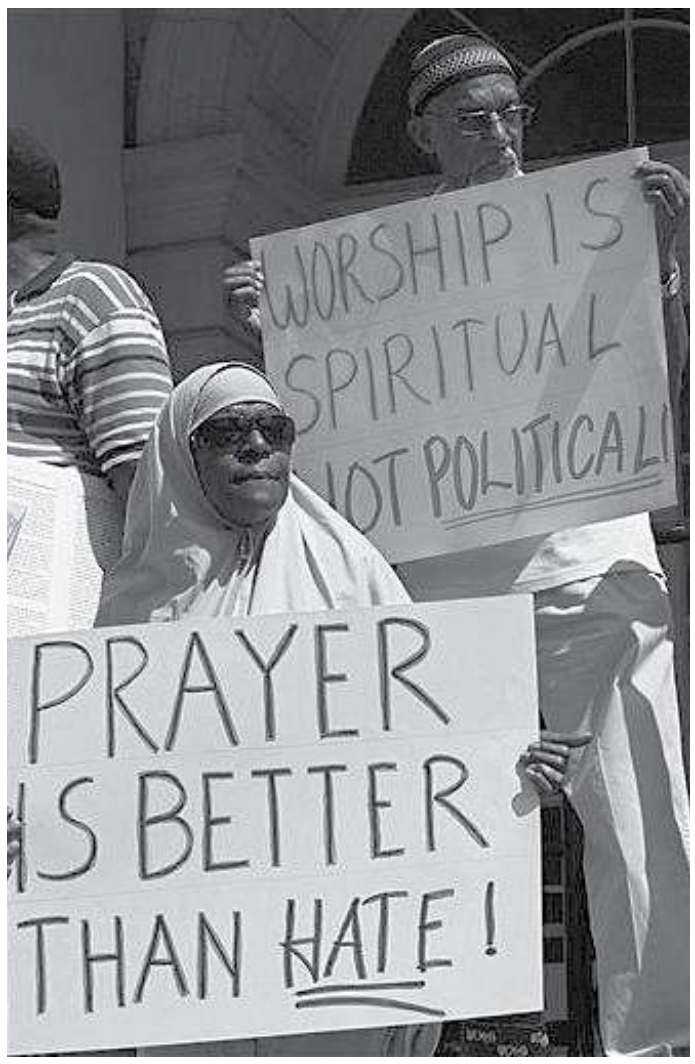
Islamic centers in many cities are intensifying surveillance and keeping closer contact with law enforcement. Adding to Muslim concern is a fluke of the lunar calendar: Eid al-Fitr, a joyous holiday marking the end of Ramadan, will fall around Sept. 11 this year. Muslim leaders fear festivities could be misinterpreted as celebrating the 2001 terror strikes.

"We're telling everyone to keep their eyes open and report anything suspicious to authorities and call us," said Ramzy Kilic of the Tampa, Fla., chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations.

Other efforts around 9/11 aim to fight bigotry. Muslims will clean parks, feed the homeless, and give toys to sick children as part of Muslim Serve, a national campaign to demonstrate Islamic commitment to serving humanity.

PLANE CRASH AP

A crowd watches a small plane being raised on Friday, Sept. 3, 2010 that crashed in a lagoon on Thursday in Redwood City, Calif.



AP

In this Sept. 1, 2010 file photo, demonstrators hold up signs during a news conference on the step of New York's City Hall.

Dems' prospects threatened by economic woes

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Frustrated, discouraged and just plain mad, a lot of people who have lost jobs—or know someone who has—now want to see the names of Democrats on pink slips. And that's jeopardizing the party's chances in Ohio and all across the country in November's elections.

In this big swing-voting state alone, Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland is in a dogfight for reelection. Senate candidate Lee Fisher may be even worse off. As many as six House Democrats could lose their jobs this fall. Recession-fueled animosity is dominating every race, giving Republicans hope of huge victories.

In Ohio, like almost everywhere else, voters don't much care for Washington, Wall Street or anything resembling the establishment. They grouse about every politician, including President Barack Obama, whom Ohioans played a critical role in electing. They fume over the nation's teetering finances.

"I don't think we've seen the worst of it yet," says Jarrod Davis, 26, a Republican. Adds independent Dan Sharpe, 41: "So far, nothing's gotten better under the Democrats."

Both of these construction workers backed Obama and his party before, but they say Democrats can't count on their support again—if they even vote.

At stake nationally is the balance of power in Washington, the tone for the remainder of Obama's first term and his likely 2012 re-election bid. All 435 House seats as well as 37 Senate seats are on the ballot. The country also will elect 37 governors in races that will determine who oversees the once-a-decade redrawing of political districts.

Craigslist strikes adult services under pressure

Craigslist appears to have surrendered in a legal fight over erotic ads posted on its website, shutting down its adult services section Saturday and replacing it with a black bar that simply says "censored."

The move comes just over a week after a group of state attorneys general said there weren't enough protections against blocking potentially illegal ads promoting prostitution. It's not clear if the closure is permanent, and it appears to only affect ads in the United States.

The listings came under new scrutiny after the jailhouse suicide last month of a former medical student who was awaiting trial in the killing of a masseuse he met through Craigslist, a popular site that lets users post classified ads, often for free.

Craigslist's adult services section carried ads for everything from personal massages to a night's companionship, which critics say veered into prostitution.

Craigslist CEO Jim Buckmaster said in a May blog posting that the company's ads were no worse than those published by the alternative newspaper chain Village Voice Media. He cited one explicit ad which included the phrase: "anything goes $90."

Craigslist has been caught for years in a murky legal fight that centers on how much responsibility the company bears for its ads, said Jonathan Zittrain, professor of law and computer science at Harvard University.

ACROSS THE NATION

NYC sanitation pier, trash trailers catch fire

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York City Fire Department says a Manhattan sanitation pier that was the site of a smoky fire will need to be checked for stability. The pier and trash-filled trailers began burning Saturday afternoon and drew more than 130 firefighters. The Fire Department says the blaze was extinguished within two hours of when it was reported, but the stability of the pier will need to be checked before the fire can be officially declared under control. Three firefighters were hospitalized with minor injuries. The cause of the blaze hasn't been determined. The Department of Sanitation did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment.

2 babies killed after semi hits vehicles in Ariz.

PHOENIX (AP)—Two babies have been killed in a three-vehicle collision involving a gas tanker in Phoenix. An Arizona Department of Public Safety spokesman says a car slowed on Interstate 10 on Saturday afternoon to look at a minor collision and cut off a minivan, which braked to avoid a crash. A small sedan then hit the minivan and a gas tanker hit the two vehicles and overturned on its side. A 13-month-old girl, a 3-week-old boy, and a woman believed to be their mother were critically injured in the sedan and taken to hospitals; the babies died around 3:45 p.m. A woman in the minivan suffered nonfatal injuries, and the tanker driver was not hurt. DPS is looking for the male driver of the white or gray Dodge Magnum that cut off the minivan.

UPS identifies American crew killed in Dubai crash

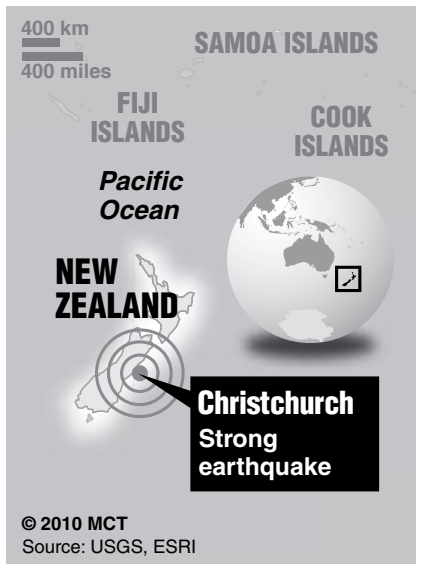
LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Crew members from Kentucky and Florida were identified Saturday as the two people killed when a UPS cargo plane crashed shortly after takeoff outside Dubai. The crash Friday killed Captain Doug Lampe of Louisville, Ky., 48, and First Officer Matthew Bell, 38, of Sanford, Fla., the Atlanta-based package delivery company said in a news release. Lampe has been with UPS since 1995. Bell has been with the company since 2006. Both flew out of UPS's Anchorage, Alaska, pilot base. "This is a terrible tragedy, and all of us at UPS extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of both of these crew members," UPS CEO Scott Davis said in a statement. "Our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with them during this difficult time."

Asia

NZ cleans up after quake that tore new fault line

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP)—The powerful earthquake that smashed buildings, cracked roads and twisted rail lines around the New Zealand city of Christchurch also ripped a new 11-foot (3.5 meter) wide fault line in the earth's surface, a geologist said Sunday.

At least 500 buildings, including 90 downtown properties, have been designated as destroyed in the 7.1-magnitude quake that struck at 4:35 a.m. Saturday (1635 GMT Friday) near the South Island city of 400,000 people. Most other buildings sustained only minor damage.



The quake cut power across the region, roads were blocked by debris and gas and water supplies were disrupted, but Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker said services were being restored Sunday.

Power was back to 90 percent of the city and water supply had resumed for all but 15 to 20 percent of residents, he said. Portable toilets had been provided and tanks of fresh water placed around the city for residents.

Parker said it would take a long time to fully fix some core services such as water and sewerage. "Our first priority is just people," he said. "That's our worry."

Up to 90 extra police officers had flown in to Christchurch to help, and troops were likely to join the recovery effort on Monday, he said.

On Sunday, specialist engineering teams began assessing damage to all central city buildings, said Paul Burns of the city's search and rescue service. Officials said schools across the region would remain closed for the next two days to allow time to check whether they were safe.

Only two serious injuries were reported from the quake as chimneys and walls of older buildings were reduced to rubble and crumbled to the ground. Prime Minister John Key said it was a miracle no one was killed.

Part of the reason the city escaped major injuries was because the quake happened before dawn, Key said.

"If this had happened five hours earlier or five hours later (when many more people were in the city), there would have been absolute carnage in terms of human life," he told TV One News Sunday.

Aquino takes control of police after hijack deaths

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president took control of the national police Friday as disgraced senior officials acknowledged that serious lapses had led to the deaths of eight Hong Kong tourists who were taken hostage on a hijacked bus last week.

Aquino

President Benigno Aquino III told reporters he was taking responsibility for the Aug. 23 debacle that drew the ire of Hong Kong and Beijing, with losses from tourist cancellations hitting millions of dollars and the Philippines reeling from bad publicity.

Aquino, facing his first major crisis after barely two months in office, said he was temporarily taking over supervision of the police from the interior secretary.

"At the end of the day, I am responsible for everything that has transpired," Aquino said. His spokesman, Sonny Coloma, said the president was determined to reform the police force.

An investigation into the botched rescue effort began Friday with Interior Undersecretary Rico Puno—who had been put in charge of police operations during the hostage crisis—and national police chief Jesus Verzosa saying the authorities' objective was to exhaust the gunman through negotiations because police thought they could save all the lives.

The 11-hour negotiations with the hostage-taker, dismissed police Capt. Rolando Mendoza, who was demanding his job back, came to an abrupt end when he started shooting his captives after watching his brother being handcuffed by officers for interfering in the negotiations, police said.

Eight Hong Kong tourists were killed before Mendoza was fatally shot by police sharpshooters. Seven other tourists were rescued, three of them seriously wounded.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Outgoing NATO deputy rues early optimism on Marjah

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—NATO commanders were overly optimistic when they predicted quick success taking the key Taliban-held town of Marjah last winter, the outgoing deputy commander said. There are now fledgling signs of a turnaround, but burned once by Marjah's unpredictability, the military will be more restrained in forecasting success, British Lt. Gen. Nick Parker told reporters Saturday at the headquarters of the NATO-led force. U.S. Marines and Afghan troops overran Marjah, a major Taliban logistics center and opium poppy-growing community, last February and announced plans to stand up an effective Afghan administration. The idea was to develop Marjah as a model for counterinsurgency techniques in hopes other communities in Helmand province and elsewhere in the south would turn against the Taliban.

Sea lion mauls 11-year-old boy at Australian zoo

SYDNEY (AP)—An 11-year-old boy was recovering Saturday after a sea lion mauled him at a popular Sydney zoo's aquarium show as horrified visitors looked on. The boy, identified by his stepmother as Jack Lister, had been invited by zookeepers to meet the 8-year-old female sea lion during the Taronga Zoo's seal and sea lion show on Friday. After feeding the animal, Jack mistakenly followed it off the stage, which spooked it, zoo officials said. The sea lion bit the boy and left several puncture wounds on his stomach. Jack had abdominal surgery Friday night and was in stable condition at a hospital.

95 snakes found in burst bag at Malaysia airport

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A Malaysian man pleaded guilty to wildlife smuggling after his bag bursting with 95 live boa constrictors broke open on a luggage conveyer belt at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, an official said Friday. Keng Liang "Anson" Wong, 52, who was previously convicted of wildlife trafficking in the United States, was charged Wednesday in a district court with exporting the endangered boas without a permit, said Shamsuddin Osman, an official with Malaysia's wildlife department. The offense that carries a penalty of up to seven years in prison and a fine, Shamsuddin said.

World

'Alive' survivors to Chilean mining kin: Be strong

SAN JOSE MINE, Chile (AP)—Former rugby players from Uruguay who survived more than two months of isolation in the snow-covered Andes met on Saturday with some of the relatives of 33 trapped miners and urged them to stay strong.

"They will be out soon," said Jose Inciarte, one of the four plane crash survivors visiting the San Jose copper and gold mine in northern Chile. "The whole world is with them."

The men communicated with miners by video, urging to appreciate the relative good fortune that nobody died in the partial tunnel collapse at the mine Aug. 5. They also said that they were moved by the miners' fortitude.

"There is little similar between our story and theirs," Inciarte said. "Theirs is more beautiful because they are all alive."

Fellow survivor Gustavo Zerbino, who waved an Uruguayan flag, said to the extent possible the miners should "enjoy themselves."

AP

Gustavo Zerbino, Uruguayan survivor of a 1972's plane crash in the Chilean Andes, right, embraces Maria Segovia, sister of trapped miner Dario Segovia at the San Jose mine in Copiapo, Chile, Saturday, Sept. 4, 2010.

"Nobody died," he said.

After speaking with the miners, the men presented an Uruguayan flag, which they said they would leave at the camp as a symbol of Latin American solidarity. "Viva, Chile!" they yelled.

Inciarte and Zerbino were among 16 Uruguayans who survived a plane crash in the snow-covered Andean peaks in 1972. They waited 72 days to be rescued, and some were forced to eat the flesh of friends killed in the crash to stay alive. Their story inspired the book and movie "Alive."

"They fought so hard for their lives," Maria Segovia, sister of trapped miner Dario Segovia, said as she hugged some of the visitors. "Seeing them makes my heart so happy."

Israel: Explosions occurred at Hezbollah depot

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's military said Saturday that surveillance footage from drones shows that the explosions that rocked a village in southern Lebanon this week occurred at a residential building used by Hezbollah as a weapons depot.

A series of blasts ripped through a building in the Hezbollah-dominated village of Shehabiyeh on Friday. There did not appear to be any casualties from the blasts, which set off a large fire. Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran, did not comment on the nature of the explosions or whether the building had been used to store weapons.

Israeli military spokeswoman Lt. Col. Avital Leibovich told The Associated Press Saturday that footage from Israeli drones shows suspected Hezbollah militants removing weapons from the site and transferring them to other Hezbollah facilities.

Leibovich said it was the third time this year that explosions have torn through a suspected Hezbollah weapons cache. She also accused the group of maintaining military facilities—including bunkers and storage depots for large quantities of weapons—in 160 villages across southern Lebanon.

She alleged that the caches include the type of rockets that Hezbollah launched by the hundreds on northern Israeli cities during the 2006 war.

Friday's blasts occurred south of the Litani River, the zone where Hezbollah is banned from keeping weapons under a U.N. resolution that ended the 2006 war between the Shiite militants and Israel.

WORLD BRIEFS

Salvadoran police find over $9M in cash in drums

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)—Police in El Salvador have found two buried oil drums stuffed with millions of dollars in cash possibly linked to the illegal drug trade, authorities said Saturday. The first barrel was found Thursday on a ranch in the town of Penitente Abajo, about 40 miles (62 kilometers) from the capital. After three days counting the bundles of $100, $50 and $20 bills, authorities announced that it contained about $9 million in U.S. dollars, which the Central American nation uses as its currency.

Shoes, eggs hurled at ex-Brit PM Blair in Dublin

DUBLIN (AP)—Protesters hurled shoes and eggs Saturday at Tony Blair who held the first public signing of his memoir amid high security in Ireland's capital. Hundreds more people lined up to have their books autographed—evidence that the divisions left by Blair's decade as British leader have yet to heal. Blair's new book, "A Journey," is a best-seller, but it has angered opponents of his policies, especially the 2003 invasion of Iraq. About 200 demonstrators chanted that Blair had "blood on his hands" as the former prime minister arrived at a Dublin bookstore. Shoes, eggs and other projectiles were thrown toward Blair as he emerged from a car, but did not hit him. A flip-flop could be seen lying on the roof of a BMW in Blair's motorcade.

US pressure leads to ban on beggars in Dakar

CAMBERENE, Senegal (AP)—Abdoulaye Ba, 10, looked right, then left, before timidly approaching the taxi and holding out his hand. A 10-year-old begging is nothing new in this destitute African country, but the fear in his eyes is. A few days ago police chased him away from the intersection in Dakar, the Senegalese capital a 40-minute drive away, where he used to approach tourists. Now he hangs around a gas station in this downtrodden suburb outside the police's radar, where he says he earns half of what he got before. Like most other child beggars here, he brings the money back to his Islamic boarding school.

Health & Fitness

Can home cooking be hazardous to your health?

By MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

ATLANTA (AP)—Could your kitchen at home pass a restaurant inspection?

New research suggests that at least one in seven home kitchens would flunk the kind of health inspection commonly administered to restaurants.

The small study from California's Los Angeles County found that only 61 percent of home kitchens would get an A or B if put through the rigors of a restaurant inspection. At least 14 percent would fail—not even getting a C.

"I would say if they got below a C, I'm not sure I would like them to invite me to dinner," said Dr. Jonathan Fielding, director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

In comparison, nearly all Los Angeles County restaurants—98 percent—get A or B scores each year.

The study, released Thursday, is believed to be one of the first to offer a sizable assessment of food safety in private homes. But the researchers admit the way it was done is hardly perfect.

The results are based not on actual inspections, but on an Internet quiz taken by about 13,000 adults.

So it's hard to use it to compare the conditions in home kitchens to those in restaurants, which involve trained inspectors giving objective assessments of dirt, pests, and food storage and handling practices.

What's more, experts don't believe the study is representative of all households, because people who are more interested and conscientious about food safety are more likely to take the quiz.

"You'll miss a big population who don't have home computers or just really don't care" about the cleanliness of their kitchens, said Martin Bucknavage, a food safety specialist with Penn State University's Department of Food Science.

A more comprehensive look would probably find that an even smaller percentage of home kitchens would do well in a restaurant inspection, he suggested.

In 2006, the county health department began a home kitchen self-inspection program, designed to help consumers learn how to store and prepare food safely. The department also began offering an online quiz with 45 yes or no questions that simulates a restaurant inspection checklist.

People are asked, for example, if their refrigerator temperature is 41 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, whether raw meat is stored below other foods on refrigerator shelves, and whether fruits and vegetables are always thoroughly rinsed before they are eaten.

The study is based on quizzes taken through 2008.

Overall, 34 percent got an A, meaning they correctly answered at least 90 percent of the questions. Another 27 percent got a B, 25 percent a C, and 14 percent failed to score at least a 70.

An estimated 87 million cases of food-borne illness occur in the United States each year, including 371,000 hospitalizations and 5,700 deaths, according to an Associated Press calculation that uses a CDC formula and recent population estimates.

Many outbreaks that receive publicity are centered on people who got sick after eating at a restaurant, catered celebration or large social gathering. In this summer's outbreak linked to salmonella in eggs, several illnesses were first identified in clusters among restaurant patrons.

But experts believe the bulk of food poisonings are unreported illnesses from food prepared at home.

The study is being published in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, a publication of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Personal Trainer
Playing tennis against a 'pusher'
A "pusher," or counterpuncher, plays patiently and persistently from the baseline, keeping the ball in play until you make a mistake.
Pusher play
• Stands at baseline, hits high, safe ground strokes deep into opponent's court
• Relies on speed, endurance and tenacity
• Tries to frustrate, annoy opponent
What not to do
Don't try to overpower the pusher, who will just soften your shots and return them to you
Play the angles
Force the pusher to side of court, out of his or her comfortable defensive position, then:
Pusher, forced to side
If ball comes down sideline, hit across court
If it comes across court, approach net and put ball down sideline
Across court
Down sideline
You
Pusher moves left
Hit behind pusher
You
Wrong-foot the pusher
To cover the baseline for hours, a pusher stays in good physical shape; to neutralize that advantage:
Hit a volley or hard ground stroke behind the pusher
THWONK!
Force bad serves
Most pushers have relatively weak serves, so return the pusher's serves aggressively, but accurately
The pusher will try to serve harder and deeper in response – and start losing points by double faulting
© 2010 MCT
Source: Tennis magazine, Nick Saviano of USA Tennis
Graphic: Paul Trap

FDA looks to curb abuse of cough medicine

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal health regulators are weighing restrictions on Robitussin, NyQuil and other cough suppressants to curb cases of abuse that send thousands of people to the hospital each year.

The Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday posted its review of dextromethorphan, an ingredient found in more than 100 over-the-counter medications that is sometimes abused for its euphoric effects. The practice, dubbed "robotripping," involves taking more than 25 times the recommended dose of a cold medicine and is mainly associated with teenagers.

At high doses the drug causes increased blood pressure, heart rate and fever. Abusers can also suffer side effects from other ingredients mixed in cough medicines, such as acetaminophen, which can cause liver damage.

"Because of the drug's perceived safety, ease of availability, and desired psychoactive effects, it is sought after by those seeking to alter their mental state," states the FDA review.

According to the FDA, inappropriate use of the ingredient was linked to nearly 8,000 emergency room visits in 2008. That was up more than 70 percent from reports in 2004.

An FDA analysis concluded that dextromethorphan is abused less often than the popular painkiller codeine but more often than pseudophedrine, a cold medicine ingredient that can be processed into methamphetamine.

The FDA has agreed to reconsider how it regulates the drug at the behest of the Drug Enforcement Agency, which has raised concerns about increasing abuse among adolescents.

On Sept. 14, the FDA will ask a panel of outside experts whether dextromethorphan should be available only as a prescription. The agency is not required to follow the group's advice, though it often does.

Mandating a prescription for the drug would deal a major blow to over-the-counter drug makers, which use the drug in dozens of combination cold medicines. Popular brands containing dextromethorphan include Wyeth's Dimetapp, Bayer's Alka Seltzer Flu Plus and Procter & Gamble's Vicks cough medicines. The drug is available in pills, gel caps, liquids and other forms.

Most industry observers don't expect the FDA to mandate a prescription on those products due to the enormous workload it would create for doctors and pharmacists.

One alternative could involve placing the drugs behind the counter, though the FDA's review did not discuss specific proposals.

The over-the-counter medicine industry supports prohibiting sales of the medicines to people under age 18. Such age restrictions require legal changes, and the industry's trade association has lobbied on the issue at the state and federal levels.

Life & Style

Pulitzer-winning cartoonist Paul Conrad dies at 86

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paul Conrad used his pencil like a weapon. His long lines and jagged angles seemed to point directly at the leaders he deemed charlatans and fools in need of deflating.

In a career of more than 50 years he won three Pulitzer Prizes, made Richard Nixon's enemies list and ruined Ronald Reagan's breakfast.

The political cartoonist with an unmistakable style died at 86 Saturday at his home in the Los Angeles suburb of Rancho Palos Verdes surrounded by his family, his son David Conrad said. The death was from natural causes, David Conrad said, but he did not offer specifics.

Paul Conrad took on U.S. presidents from Harry S. Truman to George W. Bush, mostly in the Los Angeles Times, where he worked for 30 years and helped the newspaper raise its national profile.

He was fierce in his liberalism and expressed it with a stark, powerful visual style. Southern California political junkies for decades would start their day either outraged or delighted at a Conrad drawing.

The Times said in a Saturday story that its longtime publisher came to expect that his breakfast would be interrupted by an angry phone call from then-governor Reagan or wife Nancy, peeved by a Conrad cartoon that made them look foolish.

Conrad's favorite target was Nixon. At the time of the president's resignation, Conrad drew Nixon's helicopter leaving the White House with the caption: "One flew over the cuckoo's nest."

"He always said he was most proud of being on Nixon's enemies list," David Conrad said.

In a 2006 interview with The Associated Press, Conrad compared his favorite target to then-president George W. Bush.

AP

This undated file photo provided by the Huntington Library/Independent Television Service shows cartoonist Paul Conrad at his drawing board.

"I felt two ways about Nixon. First, how did an idiot like that become president," said Conrad, a Cedar Rapids, Iowa, native. "And, secondly, how soon can we get rid of him. Almost the same thing applies to Bush."

One of Conrad's final images showed Bush as Sisyphus, rolling a huge boulder labeled "Iraq" up a hill.

Democratic politicians weren't safe from his barbs either.

After Jimmy Carter admitted that at times he had "lusted in his heart," Conrad drew him mentally undressing the Statue of Liberty.

Conrad and his identical twin James were born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1924, the sons of a railroad worker who dabbled in art. The Times said Conrad later joked that his first political cartoon was a scrawl on the bathroom wall at his elementary school.

After serving in the Pacific during World War II in the Army Corps of Engineers, he majored in art at the University of Iowa, and an old family friend convinced him to draw cartoons for the college paper.

His first job after college was at the Denver Post, where he worked for 14 years before moving to Los Angeles.

Conrad worked in the heyday of political cartoonists, and he was among the elite.

His total of three Pulitzers is matched by just two other cartoonists in the Post-World War II era.

By late in his life, only a small number of newspapers had cartoonists on staff, and many of them had abandoned the traditional single-panel image for a comic-strip approach that Conrad disdained.

"It's dialogue, long conversations, from one panel to another," Conrad told the AP. "Some have a political point but when you get finished reading them you knew that in the beginning. So what am I doing reading 'em?"

Conrad's drawings were anything but busy or complex. They were always a single panel and often a single figure, rendered in sharp, long lines that made his subjects look bony and sometimes sinister. He rarely used dialogue and kept words to a minimum.

"Conrad's work is immediate. It's high impact. There's emotion in it. If he were a boxer, he'd be giving body blows," Denver Post cartoonist Mike Keefe told the AP in 2006.

And despite the humor in a lot of his work, Conrad's style had a seriousness that other cartoonists lacked.

As narrator in a PBS documentary on Conrad, Tom Brokaw said: "Every line he draws cries out to the powers that be, 'We're watching you.'"

In addition to David, Paul Conrad is survived by another son, two daughters, and his wife of more than 60 years, Kay.

Memorial plans were still uncertain, David Conrad said.

Irreverent Cuban movie promises zombie revolution

HAVANA (AP)—What would you do if your entire city was taken over by flesh-eating zombies and communist leaders insisted it was nothing but a plot by U.S-backed dissidents to destabilize the government?

If you were the protagonist of Juan de los Muertos—"Juan of the Dead"—the first zombie flick ever shot in post-revolutionary Cuba, you'd figure out how to make some cash out of the carnage.

Part horror show, part social satire, the soon-to-be-shot movie has the backing of a Spanish production company, a green light from Cuban authorities and a budget that dwarfs most big-screen offerings from the island.

And its irreverent humor—one blurb for the film proclaims: "Fifty years later, a new Revolution has begun"—could make Juan of the Dead the next big thing in Cuban cinema, and give it a real chance at global success.

It is the second film by 34-year-old writer-director Alejandro Brugues, who says his idea was to tell a story that was authentically Cuban—but within the logic of a camp zombie flick. Closest to his heart, he said, is a quintessential island knack for making ends meet, whether by keeping a rusty '57 Chevy on the road for half a century, or finding a way to feed a family on a salary of $20 a month.

Locals even have a saying for how they will overcome the constant hurdles that are part of daily life on this cash-strapped, crumbling island: "I'll invent something."

"We Cubans have had to deal with a whole series of problems in the last 50 years," Brugues told The Associated Press, an allusion to the decades of economic hardship and isolation that have followed Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution, particularly since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"We have become accustomed to resolving problems on our own and finding a way to survive. So I was thinking, 'How would a Cuban survive a zombie epidemic."

As Brugues spoke, makeup artists in another room were transforming actors into blood-soaked zombies, a process that can take up to five hours. A gruesome zombie head lay on a table alongside multiple cups of coffee and cigarette butts, and a producer was testing out the believability of a detached, latex hand by sneaking up on unsuspecting production assistants and tapping them on the shoulder with it.

Preproduction got under way this week, with shooting slated to start in late October. the filmmakers hope to release the movie in the spring or summer of next year, and plan to role it out at several film festivals before showing it to a wider audience.

The movie's plot is simple: A 40-year old layabout named Juan finds a zombie floating in the water while fishing off the coast of Havana. The zombie attacks but Juan makes a narrow escape, only to find that the undead are all over the city. State-run media blames the whole thing on government opponents backed by Cuba's archenemies in Washington, but Juan knows better—and comes up with a plan.

Together with his sidekick, Lazaro—described by the filmmakers as "just as lazy, but twice as stupid"—Juan puts out the word that he is open for business.

Death Announcement

This is to inform
family and friends of

Linda Angui Ada,

the wife of Manuel Sablan Ada (Aguas)
has passed away on Thursday,
September 2, 2010 at
approximately 10:30 p.m.

Nightly rosary is being said at 7:00pm at Chalan Kanoa District 1 Social Hall.

Daily Mass is being offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m.

Funeral will be announced at a later date.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank You yan Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Ginen I Familia

Fox: Kara DioGuardi departs 'American Idol'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kara DioGuardi is following Ellen DeGeneres and Simon Cowell out the door at "American Idol."

Her departure leaves Randy Jackson, who's been with the singing contest from the start, the last judge standing, for now. Steven Tyler and Jennifer Lopez are the reported front-runners for the panel.

Entertainment mogul Simon Fuller, creator of the British show "Pop Idol" that was the template for the U.S. series he produces, called DioGuardi a standout songwriter whom he planned to work with in music "for many years to come."

DioGuardi, whose exit had been rumored, is a hit machine whose songs have been recorded by Gwen Stefani, Faith Hill, Marc Anthony and others, including past "Idol" winners.

"I felt like I won the lottery when I joined `American Idol' two years ago, but I feel like now is the best time to leave `Idol,'" DioGuardi said in a statement Friday, calling her experience as a judge on the show "amazing."

Her statement, issued by Fox, didn't elaborate on her reasons for leaving. Her contract reportedly had a one-year option remaining that the network could have exercised.

Although she offered informed critiques on "Idol," observers faulted her for lacking the pizazz—and unpredictability—that ex-judge Paula Abdul had provided.

DioGuardi's departure comes as the top-rated show continues auditions for its 10th season, which starts airing in January. Tryouts have been held in six cities, with a seventh announced this week for Los Angeles on Sept. 22.

The final decision on which would-be pop stars make it on the show rests with the judges, who are likely to begin filming their audition segments this month.

Cowell started the exodus from "American Idol" earlier this year, when he announced he was leaving to launch another talent show for Fox, "The X Factor," based on the hit British program he created.

In July, DeGeneres, who was brought in to replace Abdul, said she was leaving after a single season. The talk show host said she felt uncomfortable criticizing young talent.

Some critics had complained DeGeneres was more of a cheerleader than an incisive critic in the fashion of Cowell, who was consistently blunt in his remarks.

The judges' turnover gives "American Idol" a chance to recapture the Cowell-Abdul chemistry that helped make the show a hit, along with, crucially, its ability to launch such top-selling artists as Carrie Underwood and Kelly Clarkson.

While the show has long been No. 1 in the ratings, it has to stem a slide in viewership to remain there.

A total of 24.2 million viewers watched the ninth season's final duel between Lee DeWyze and Crystal Bowersox, compared to the nearly 29 million viewers who saw Kris Allen win over Adam Lambert last year.

AP

In this Jan. 13, 2009 file photo, Kara DioGuardi of "American Idol" arrives at the FOX Winter All-Star Party in Los Angeles. Fox TV says Kara DioGuardi is leaving as `American Idol' judge, Friday, Sept. 3, 2010.

AP Interview: Author leaving home next to Palins

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Sarah Palin can take down the fence. Palin's neighbor of three months on Wasilla's Lake Lucille, author Joe McGinniss, is packing his bags and notebooks and leaving Sunday for his home in Massachusetts to write the book he has been researching on the former governor and GOP vice presidential candidate.

His arrival in May made headlines and drew an indignant reaction from Palin and a visit from her husband, Todd. The Palins even tacked an extension onto an 8-foot board fence between the homes, leaving only a part of their second-story home visible from McGinniss' driveway.

Peeping into windows or peering through knotholes was never part of his research, McGinniss said.

"I've been very busy but on Lake Lucille it's been very quiet," he said. "As I told Todd back in May—he came over to get in my face about moving in there—I said, 'You're not even going to know I'm there. A lot of the time, I'm not going to be here. And when I am, I mind my own business. I don't care what happens on your side of the fence. That's not why I'm here.'"

And that's how it has played out, McGinniss said.

A Palin spokesman didn't immediately respond to an e-mail Saturday seeking any comments from the governor on the author's departure.

McGinniss has written best-selling books, including "The Selling of the President," on the marketing of Richard Nixon, "Fatal Vision," an account of the Jeffrey MacDonald murder case, and "Blind Faith," about a businessman's contract killing of his wife.

He's no newcomer to Alaska. Thirty-five years ago, McGinniss moved to the state to see how new oil money would affect Alaskans. He wrote a draft, returned for three months in 1977, and two years later completed "Going To Extremes." The book has recently been reissued.

In this Sept. 3, 2010 photo, Joe McGinniss, who is working on a book on former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, poses for a photograph at the home he's renting next to Palin's home in Wasilla, Alaska. AP

McGinniss had been gone from Alaska for 28 years when he returned in 2008 to research a magazine article on Palin's natural gas pipeline initiative, which she had heralded in the presidential campaign. McGinniss' critical story in the now defunct Conde Nast publication Portfolio was titled "Pipe Dreams." He concluded that for all of Palin's posturing, her only accomplishment in two years of work on the pipeline project had been to award $500 million from Alaska's budget to a Canadian company and to leave Alaska again at the mercy of Big Oil.

"She said it was a hit piece," McGinniss said. "For a day she was upset. I said it was a hit piece: It hit the bulls-eye."

So when McGinniss moved next door in May, Palin may have suspected that his future book was not going to be flattering.

Up went the fence, along with a Facebook posting implying something sinister: "Here he is about 15 feet away on the neighbor's rented deck overlooking my children's play area and my kitchen window. We're sure to have a doozy to look forward to with this treasure he's penning. Wonder what kind of material he'll gather while overlooking Piper's bedroom, my little garden, and the family's swimming hole?"

McGinniss said he didn't seek out the rental home. During his search for a place to live, he said, the homeowner sought him out. The price was right and it was close to the people he wanted to talk to.

Anybody wanting to spy on the Palins, McGinniss said, would be better off in a boat.

"That's the funny thing," he said. "They live in a place where anybody who wants to look onto their property, all they have to do is get a boat and park 10 yards off shore and they can sit there all day and look at the Palin's yard, if that's what they want to do. But I don't know who would want to do that."

Throughout the summer, McGinniss said, he kept a chain across his driveway to keep tourists out.

"They want to take pictures of 'The Fence' or they want to try to come onto my land and climb up on a ladder and take a picture over the fence of Palin's. I'd say, you can't do that."

Two days before his departure, he did not want to be photographed with the fence, lest he unnecessarily antagonize his neighbors after a peaceful summer.

McGinniss would not reveal what his book will say about the former governor. But he did get a taste of the support Palin has inspired.

"It's just a peculiar thing, but she does, as I found out in May, she presses a button and what comes back is hate," he said. "The people who respond when she complains about something are just so filled with hate. I got some of the ugliest, most vile e-mails directed at me, my grandchildren, my children, my wife—just ugly, ugly stuff."

As for his interviews, most people he approached in Palin's hometown were willing to speak, but he said there was what he calls an "undercurrent of fear."

"People—I don't know if they're afraid of shadows or whether there's something real there—she's no longer in a position of governmental influence but there are people up there who are scared to death to talk because if Sarah ever found out they talked, oh, something terrible would happen to them," he said.

Once he settled in, McGinniss said, he didn't have a single unpleasant encounter with anybody in Wasilla. Some people objected to the welcome he had received.

"They started bringing me blueberry pie. I had many offers of handguns to borrow. I turned them all down. But for about two weeks there, I couldn't say hello to somebody without, they said, 'I've got a couple of guns for you in my truck.'"

Vanity Fair reporter admits error in Palin article

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A writer for Vanity Fair has acknowledged a case of mistaken identity in an unflattering article about Sarah Palin in the magazine's October issue.

Reporter Michael Joseph Gross describes Palin's youngest son, Trig, being pushed in a stroller by his older sister, Piper, before a rally in May in the Kansas City suburb of Independence.

"When the girl, Piper Palin, turns around, she sees her parents thronged by admirers, and the crowd rolling toward her and the baby, her brother Trig, born with Down syndrome in 2008," according to the article. "Sarah Palin and her husband, Todd, bend down and give a moment to the children; a woman, perhaps a nanny, whisks the boy away; and Todd hands Sarah her speech and walks her to the stage."

Later, Gross describes Piper joining her mother on the stage to "allow Palin to make a public display of maternal affection."

The problem, which was first reported by the website Politico, was that the boy the reporter described was another child with Down syndrome.

The mother of that child, conservative activist Gina Loudon, told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch that she told Gross during the rally that the child in the stroller was her son, not Palin's. She said she tried to make it clear because the two children look a lot alike.

"I told him that. And he ignored it," Loudon said. "It's not even like he didn't fact check—he just ignored facts."

Gross said in a written statement sent to The Associated Press that he was mistaken.

"Trig was with his mother the next day in Wichita (Kan.), but the child in Independence was someone else, and I regret the error," he said.

Palin was quick to call the article "yellow journalism" in a tweet. The article describes everything from stingy tips given to hotel staff to heated fights between Palin and her husband.

Doug McMarlin, a spokesman for Palin's political action committee, said in a written statement Friday that the article was a "collection of lies."

"As the message continues to succeed, the messenger will continue to be attacked by yellow journalists seeking to increase sales," McMarlin said. "Our focus remains on the historic 2010 election and the brave Americans that have courageously entered the public arena to bring commonsense leadership back to our federal, state and local offices."

Kanye West: 'I bled hard' over Swift debacle

NEW YORK (AP)—Hip-hop star Kanye West is still feeling the pain over his ambush of Taylor Swift last year—and he's expressing his pain all over Twitter.

West unleashed a torrent of emotions on his official Twitter account Saturday, acknowledging once again that he was wrong for jumping on stage, grabbing the microphone from Swift at the MTV Video Music Awards and saying her trophy should have gone to Beyonce.

But the rapper-producer said that he has experienced enormous pain, been the subject of death wishes and suffered tremendous setback to his career.

"How deep is the scar ... I bled hard ... cancelled tour with the number one pop star in the world ... closed the doors of my clothing office," he tweeted.

The multiplatinum, Grammy-winning superstar had been one of the decade's most successful and critically acclaimed stars, despite sometimes boorish behavior and meltdowns at other awards shows when things did not go his way.

However, when he upstaged Swift—the then-teenage darling of pop and country music worlds -the public had had enough. There was tremendous backlash against West—even President Barack Obama was caught calling him a "jackass."

AP

In this Sept. 13, 2009 file photo, singer Kanye West takes the microphone from singer Taylor Swift as she accepts the "Best Female Video" award during the MTV Video Music Awards in New York.

At the time, he went on Jay Leno's prime-time show to apologize and said he still had not recovered from his mother's death two years prior. He said he would be taking time off from the public eye.

That time off came sooner than expected. He canceled a joint tour with Lady Gaga that fall, apparently due to low ticket sales. On Twitter, West talked about the backlash.

"I'm the guy who at one point could perform the Justin Timberlake on stage and everyone would be sooo happy that I was there," he wrote.

After the incident, he said, "People tweeted that they wish I was dead ... No listen. They wanted me to die people. I carry that. I smile and take pictures through that."

West said he's now "ready to get out of my own way. The ego is overdone."

He also apologized to Swift again, and said he has written a song for her that he hopes she will perform.

"If she won't take it then I will perform it for her," he said.

West is working on a new album that is supposed to come out sometime this fall. A recent member of Twitter, West has been an active user, posting not only his feelings, but new songs and other updates. He has over 900,000 followers since he joined earlier this summer.

"Man I love Twitter ... I've always been at the mercy of the press but no more ... The media tried to demonize me," he tweeted Saturday.

Ne-Yo on T.I.: 'He makes a lot of poor decisions'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ne-Yo says T.I. has had many chances—and it's time he gets his act together.

After T.I. was arrested in a drug case, Ne-Yo called him one of the smartest people in the music industry.

"I just feel that he makes a lot of poor decisions when it comes to the people that he surrounds himself with," Ne-Yo told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday night.

T.I. was taken into custody Wednesday with his wife Tameka "Tiny" Cottle on suspicion of possessing methamphetamines after police pulled over their Maybach in West Hollywood. They were released on $10,000 bail Thursday.

The arrest occurred while T.I. is on three years probation in a weapons case.

AP

In this July 21, 2010 file photo, musician Ne-Yo dances while filming a music video for his upcoming single "One in a Million" on the Universal Studios lot in Los Angeles.

Ne-Yo said he's not familiar with the company T.I. surrounds himself with, but "nine times out of 10 when he gets in trouble, it's not him, it's the people that he's with."

T.I. was poised to have a major comeback.

He stars in the nation's No. 1 movie, the heist thriller "Takers," recently married his longtime girlfriend and was wrapping up a new album. But now there are questions about whether he's returning to the music charts—or prison.

Ne-Yo says it's time for the multiplatinum rapper to get his life together.

"You've been given a bunch of different chances," Ne-Yo said. "Now is the time to really go, you know I get it, all right, I get it.

Bristol Palin tells Leno 'Dancing' choice was easy

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Bristol Palin said she didn't think twice before waltzing into "Dancing with the Stars," though she's barely danced in her life.

In an appearance Friday on NBC's "Tonight Show with Jay Leno," the 19-year-old daughter of former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin says she learned about the invitation through a text message and signed within a week to appear on the new season starting Sept. 20.

Leno asked if she had gone to her high school prom. Palin replied "No, I was pregnant!"

That pregnancy put her in the spotlight during her mother's campaign for vice president in 2008. She had son Tripp that year, and recently she called off her re-engagement to Levi Johnston.

Palin told Leno she and Johnston weren't meant to be, and she's focused on being a mom.

AP

In this May 6, 2009 file photo, Bristol Palin, daughter of former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, arrives at an event to promote National Teen Pregnancy Awareness Day in New York.

Lennon still helping me, Yoko Ono says

LONDON (AP)—Yoko Ono says John Lennon is still helping her in her endeavours as an artist and peace activist as she pays tribute to her late husband before what would have been his 70th birthday.

Ono visited Lennon's childhood home and school in northern England's Liverpool on Friday. She was welcomed by hundreds of students at Dovedale School, before she went to the semi-detached family home that Lennon shared with his aunt from 1945 to 1963.

The musician was shot outside his New York home in 1980, when he was 40 years old. He would have been 70 on Oct. 9.

Ono will travel from her home in New York to Iceland on Lennon's birthday to light the Imagine Peace Tower, an illuminated memorial.

AP

John Lennon's widow Yoko Ono visits his old house in Menlove Avenue, Liverpool, England, Friday, Sept. 3, 2010.

Taylor Lautner settles suit over RV for movie set

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A lawyer for Taylor Lautner says the "Twilight" star has settled a lawsuit with an RV dealership he claims didn't deliver a $300,000 coach in time for a movie shoot.

Attorney Robert Barta said Friday that McMahon RV of Irvine, Calif. will pay $40,000 to Lautner, who will donate it to Lollipop Theater Network, a children's charity.

The 18-year-old Lautner sued the dealership Monday, saying it missed a June deadline to deliver the 2006 Affinity Country Coach for use on the set of the movie "Abduction."

Dealership owner Brent McMahon had offered to compete in a push-up contest to solve the dispute.

A phone message seeking comment on the settlement was not immediately returned.

Lautner will reprise his role as Jacob Black in the two-part "Twilight" finale.

Couple enjoying good life is getting bad reception

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: For 10 years my husband and I worked hard in our careers, but didn't have much to show for it. Our house is shabby and old, we carpool to save money and have been extremely frugal.

Last year we got lucky. We changed jobs and our salaries increased greatly. We paid off our student loans and are now debt-free. We have now decided to move to a nicer neighborhood with better schools for our children and because we can afford a larger home.

When I told our friends about the houses we have been considering, they accused me of "showing off" and not being "myself." They say my news about trips we've taken and how happy we are with our new jobs is "boasting."

I am embarrassed that I came off this way to friends, but it's a relief to finally be free of financial stress and able to afford a lifestyle we have only dreamed about. I intend to watch what I say now, so as not to annoy them.

Abby, is it more about jealousy on their part, or is it me being a bore?

MOVING UP IN NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

DEAR MOVING UP: Frankly, it's a little of both. But it's more about the lack of sensitivity you displayed when you started crowing. In the future, talk about things other than your good fortune or keep your beak shut.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I desperately need help concerning our 25-year-old daughter, "Grace." She was always a bit "awkward," but we became more concerned about her as she neared adulthood. Grace misused her college money and dropped out of school. She has been evicted twice, and we have paid off several outstanding liens against her that amounted to thousands of dollars.

Grace has now decided she wants a baby, and she's six months pregnant. This month, at my urging, she married her fiance so she could be put on his medical insurance.

Grace was laid off her job, and they are trying to live on his income as a waiter. They struggle to pay the rent, there is little food in the apartment and she can't find a job. The maternity insurance coverage is only $3,000. I have urged her to seek county help, but she complained that it "takes too long" to hang on the phone or stand in line.

I am 62 and my husband is 73. We have one income and a son who's in college still living at home. We don't have the resources to give our daughter more money. I have always tried to please her and make things perfect. I don't see how we can "fix" this, but now there is an innocent life involved. What should we do?

ANXIOUS IN ALBUQUERQUE

DEAR ANXIOUS: You have already done more than enough "fixing" for your daughter. Continue to encourage Grace to get help from the county or the state. She will need adequate nutrition to produce a healthy baby.

Also, what about your son-in-law's family? Are they capable of providing assistance, financial or otherwise, to the parents-to-be? If not, and you have reason to believe your grandchild won't be properly cared for, you must ensure that a social worker knows what's going on. There should be one on staff at the hospital where the child is delivered.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.) (EDITORS: If you have editorial questions, please contact Sue Roush, sroush(at)amuniversal.com.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

COME BACK HERE WITH HOBBES! PUT HIM DOWN! HOBBES, BITE HER! BITE HER!
HA HA! NYAHH! NYAHH!
SLAM
GET AWAY FROM OUR DOOR WITH THAT DRILL!
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate

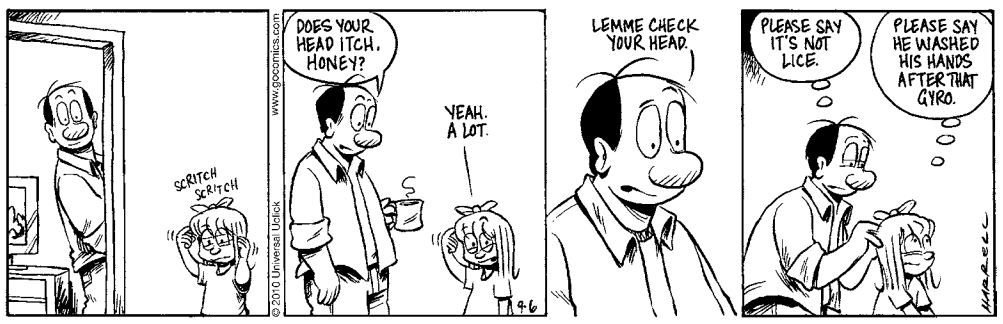
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

ODIE WILL NOW ATTEMPT TO READ HIS OWN MIND!
NOTHING IS CORRECT!
JIM DAVIS 9-6
© 2010 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SCRITCH SCRITCH
DOES YOUR HEAD ITCH, HONEY?
YEAH. A LOT.
LEMME CHECK YOUR HEAD.
PLEASE SAY IT'S NOT LICE.
PLEASE SAY HE WASHED HIS HANDS AFTER THAT GYRO.
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE IS TOO HIGH.
I'VE BEEN VERY STRESSED AT WORK LATELY.
I WANT YOU TO TAKE MORE BREAKS.
HOW DO I DO THAT?
MAYBE YOU COULD START SMOKING.
© 2010 Glenn McCoy Dist. by Universal Uclick
Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

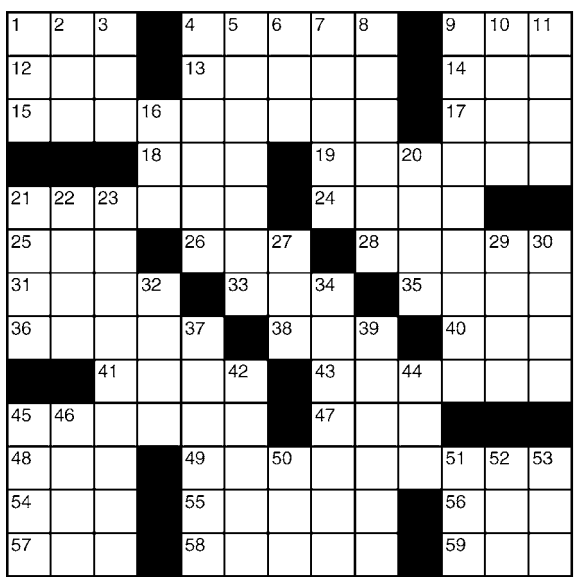
ACROSS
1 Fast flier
4 Chicago football team
9 Kitten's call
12 — carte
13 Whole, in a way
14 Man-mouse link
15 Six times a year
17 Diarist Anaïs
18 "See ya"
19 Cheered up
21 Ritzy cracker spread
24 Actress Russo
25 Raw rock
26 Butterfly catcher
28 Took a nap
31 Lean and supple
33 "What's up, —?"
35 Micro-wave, slangily
36 Actor Lorenzo
38 Father
40 Chaps
41 Formerly
43 Ailment
45 Non-sense
47 Treat for the Three Little Kittens
48 Can. prov.
49 Song about fruit that's "impossi-ble to eat"
54 Praise in verse
55 Poetry's opposite
56 Shock and —
57 Spanish preposi-tion
58 Wrote with a keyboard
59 Solidify

DOWN
1 Poke
2 Inventor Whitney
3 Scot's chapeau
4 Lumber-man Paul
5 Went in
6 German interjec-tion
7 Monarch
8 Fash-ioned
9 Last Aztec emperor of Mexico
10 A Great Lake
11 Magic stick
16 Japanese sash
20 In due time
21 Part of a Batman outfit
22 Met melody
23 Burling-ton resident
27 Upper surface
29 Scratch-ed (out)
30 Say it isn't so
32 Tug hard
34 Write music
37 Make statuary
39 Hurt
42 Abrasive powder
44 Rent
45 Betty of cartoons
46 Destroy
50 Swab the decks
51 Tatter
52 Ram's ma'am
53 Conger, e.g.

Solution time: 24 mins.

P	E	G	■	S	P	A	S	■	S	M	O	G
U	R	I	■	P	E	R	E	■	C	A	P	E
S	I	R	■	L	A	M	E	■	A	R	I	A
H	E	L	T	E	R	S	K	E	L	T	E	R
■	■	■	E	E	L	■	I	M	P	■	■	■
A	S	P	E	N	■	G	N	U	■	F	D	A
N	O	R	M	■	B	U	G	■	B	I	O	S
T	W	O	■	M	O	M	■	W	E	N	C	H
■	■	■	O	I	L	■	B	O	A	■	■	■
D	O	U	B	L	E	T	R	O	U	B	L	E
E	S	M	E	■	R	A	I	D	■	R	O	C
A	L	P	S	■	O	R	E	S	■	U	G	H
D	O	S	E	■	S	P	R	Y	■	T	O	O

Saturday's answer 9-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Greg Rusedski, 37; Rosie Perez, 46; Jane Curtin, 63; Swoosie Kurtz, 66

Happy Birthday: You'll have to be creative when it comes to work and earning more money. A little ingenuity will go a long way. Doors will open if you rid yourself of burdens or responsibilities that don't really belong to you. Get things in order and move on to bigger and better times. Your numbers are 8, 13, 18, 24, 28, 31, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): An impulsive move will turn out well. A passionate approach to life, love and work will help you maintain the status quo. Don't let a bully stand in your way when you have what it takes to outsmart and maneuver your way to victory. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Avoid emotional decisions or impossible situations. Deception is apparent when dealing with friends, children or anyone trying to keep a secret. Don't give in to emotional blackmail. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You will face opposition if you are overtly competitive. Love and romance are highlighted. Make sure you spend time nurturing the relationships that mean the most to you. Personal changes to your appearance will be noticed. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take care of responsibilities first but don't let guilt keep you from something you want to do. If you are organized, you can fit everything into your schedule, meeting the demands being put on you and satisfying your own needs. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Uncertainty will lead to a lost opportunity. Look beyond the obvious. Romance is heightened and must be fit into your busy agenda. You will gain insight into personal issues if you listen to what a loved one shares with you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): The only way things will happen is if you make it so. Don't let financial uncertainties be your excuse for not accomplishing. Instead, find a cost effective way to get things done. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Letting depression limit what you can do is a waste of time. If you aren't happy with the way you look or how much you know, move forward to achieve the style you want. Stop dwelling on the negative. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Trust what you know to be fact. Don't let emotional issues at home or work cloud your vision. Keep your thoughts and plans out in the open, as secrets will be revealed, making you look bad. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may be very enthusiastic and that's OK, but don't overshadow someone who can make a difference to the outcome of what you are working toward. Concentrate your energy on creating a better home environment. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You have to be stern when it comes to how generous you are with friends and family. Focus on fixing up your place and making your money work for you. Long-term investments will pay off and keep your finances safe. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Listen to someone with experience and wisdom to help you through times of temptation. Changes you make will open doors and help you obtain a better lifestyle. A unique opportunity to make extra cash is apparent. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Someone you look up to will be able to sort through a personal problem you've been facing. Wisdom and experience offered may appear harsh at first but, once implemented, will ease your stress. A new attitude will paint the way to plenty of options. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a perfectionist. You have an eye for what works and what doesn't. You will not give in to failure. You are practical and patient.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8		7	5				
9		1			3	6		
	3		1				5	
1		6	3				7	
8								2
	4				7	8		3
	1				8		9	
		7	5			3		6
				7	9		1	

Difficulty Level ★ 9/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

4	7	3	9	1	2	6	5	8
9	6	1	5	7	8	3	4	2
5	2	8	6	3	4	1	9	7
7	1	4	2	9	5	8	6	3
8	3	9	4	6	7	5	2	1
6	5	2	1	8	3	9	7	4
3	9	6	7	4	1	2	8	5
2	8	7	3	5	9	4	1	6
1	4	5	8	2	6	7	3	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

US TENNIS OPEN **Solution: 4 letters**

C	C	S	Ⓢ	Ⓣ	Ⓔ	Ⓢ	F	O	R	E	H	A	N	D
R	H	O	K	E	G	T	O	H	S	T	N	I	O	P
E	A	A	M	A	L	S	D	N	A	R	G	P	I	R
C	L	C	M	P	E	B	E	Z	I	R	P	L	T	O
E	L	E	Q	P	E	R	U	D	P	O	R	D	C	F
I	E	M	S	U	I	T	B	O	N	E	P	O	A	E
V	N	A	E	S	E	O	E	E	D	U	U	Y	R	S
E	G	T	R	I	U	T	N	R	I	R	O	T	T	S
R	E	C	O	N	O	T	A	S	T	T	H	R	H	I
U	S	H	C	N	A	W	R	R	H	I	H	O	U	O
L	L	E	S	E	S	E	E	V	R	I	Y	F	R	N
E	A	S	G	T	Y	N	J	T	R	O	P	S	A	A
S	N	N	E	A	N	R	Y	E	V	R	E	S	S	L
B	I	L	L	I	E	U	E	Y	E	K	W	A	H	S
K	F	P	W	U	S	T	A	F	I	F	T	E	E	N

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Action, Arthur Ashe, Billie, Bounce, Challenges, Championships, Compete, Court, Doubles, Draws, Drop, Fifteen, Finals, Forehand, Forty, Game, Grand Slam, Hawk Eye, Hype, Jean, King, Matches, Open, Opponent, Players, Points, Prize, Professionals, Racquet, Receiver, Round, Rules, Scores, Serve, Sets, Shot, Sport, Tennis, Thirty, Tiebreaks, Turn, USTA, Winner

Last Saturday's Answer: Settle

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 send $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Uclick plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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Attorney for Petitioner LPP Mortgage, Ltd.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of ESTEFANIA SEGIAN CABRERA, Deceased.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0005 **AMENDED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to an Order After Hearing approved by Court Order in this matter on July 7, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Lot 011 G 818, as more particularly described Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 17, the original of which was recorded December 9, 1993 as Document No. 93-4285 at Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

1. Date, Time and Place of Sale: The Sale will be held on **Friday, September 17, 2010 at the hour of 1:30 p.m.**, at the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger , 2nd Floor of the D'Torres Building in Garapan, Saipan. The sale will be open to the general public.
2. Change of Terms and Conditions: The undersigned reserves the right to change the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, before the auction date and time or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, will be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 12th day of August, 2010.

/s/ MICHELINE W. BREL, Auctioneer
P.O. Box 505710, Saipan
Tel: (670) 235-8064; 287-6424
E-Mail: michbrel@hotmail.com

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MEI SHU LIU, Petitioner, Versus **XIAO HUA WANG,** Respondent.	**FCD DI Civil Action No. 10-430** **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saiipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel. Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the about Court:

Dated this 11th day of August, 2010.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Arizona Cardinals release QB Matt Leinart

PHOENIX (AP)—The Arizona Cardinals have released Matt Leinart, parting ways with the former Heisman Trophy winner who was supposed to be the team's franchise quarterback but couldn't escape the backup role.

The team made the announcement on Saturday, shortly before the Cardinals had to reach their 53-man roster limit.

"In fairness to Matt, I think that it would be a tough position for him to be in a backup role," coach Ken Whisenhunt said. "Maybe a fresh start for him is what would be a good thing, for all of us."

The Cardinals tried to trade Leinart but found no acceptable deal. By cutting Leinart, Arizona doesn't have to pay him the $2.5 million he was due for the coming season, not to mention the $7.4 million, plus a $5.5 million roster bonus, he was scheduled to make next season.

Arizona thought it had a steal when Leinart, who led Southern California to two national championships and a third title game appearance, fell to the Cardinals at the No. 10 overall pick in 2006. Then-coach Dennis Green called it "a gift from heaven."

He started 11 games as a rookie under Green, then the first five the following season under new coach Ken Whisenhunt. But the big left-hander then went down with a broken collarbone and Kurt Warner took over.

Warner finished his career with two spectacular seasons, leading Arizona to consecutive NFC West titles, an incredible run to the Super Bowl and a 51-45 overtime victory over Green Bay in a playoff thriller last season.

Leinart mostly watched.

Even before Leinart was hurt, Warner was being used more and more. After the collarbone injury, Leinart started one game, at Tennessee last season when Warner was injured. This year, he expected to finally get his chance after Warner retired, but was replaced by Cleveland castoff Derek Anderson in the third preseason game.

"Do I feel like we didn't put him in a position to be successful?" Whisenhunt said. "I think that is open to debate. It has obviously been talked about a lot. I think that with every player on our team we are trying to give him the opportunity to succeed. I think we have always tried to be fair."

Leinart went public with his frustration on Monday, complaining he had outplayed Anderson and that his problems with Whisenhunt were "probably away from football."

That led to a meeting with Whisenhunt the following day. Although he was unhappy that Leinart took his issues public, Whisenhunt praised how the quarterback has handled things.

"The one thing I want to make very clear is how professional Matt was about the whole situation," the coach said. "I was very impressed with his conversation with me. He thanked the organization, the ownership, for all the time and effort that they had invested in him. He felt like he had gotten better and he had learned a lot and it meant a lot to me to hear him say that."

Leinart played two series in the final preseason game on Thursday night.

"This process was not about what some people said, two weeks into training camp or two preseason games," Whisenhunt said. "It's a complete body of work over a period of time. I will say like I have said before, Matt made tremendous progress. I was excited about what he had done, the work he had put in. I do believe that he is a better quarterback now then he was when I got here four years ago. It is not a slight on Matt, it was a decision that I felt gave us the best chance to win."

AP

In this Jan. 3, 2010, file photo, Arizona Cardinals quarterback Matt Leinart (7) throws as Green Bay Packers cornerback Jarrett Bush, bottom, defends during the first half of an NFL football game in Glendale, Ariz.

Leinart threw for 3,893 yards with 14 touchdowns and 20 interceptions with Arizona. Early on, he had to overcome his party boy image, which was enhanced when photos showed up on the Internet of him involving a hot tub, a "beer bong" and bikini-clad women.

Whisenhunt was on Leinart early about his work ethic, but said he was pleased with the quarterback's improvement in that area over his time with the Cardinals. Critics, though, pointed to Leinart's perceived lack of arm strength, apparent unwillingness to throw downfield and, perhaps most significantly, his failure to become a team leader.

The coach avoided any specific explanation about what Leinart's problems were.

"The most important thing to our players, our team and our fans is that we are in a position to win games," Whisenhunt said.

He noted how the players have rallied around Anderson.

"A lot of it is how his teammates respond to him and the confidence they have in him when he goes into the huddle," Whisenhunt said. "When he came out the other night and completed his first two passes on big plays, the guys rallied around him and that is what you like to see."

The decision elevates Max Hall, an undrafted rookie out of BYU, to backup quarterback, with another rookie, fifth-round draft pick John Skelton out of Fordham, at No. 3.

"Max has played consistently well throughout the preseason and practice," Whisenhunt said. "I understand the dynamic with regular season defenses and regular season games are different, but I am as comfortable as I can be with a rookie as our backup quarterback."

Anderson, who was released by the Cleveland Browns after Mike Holmgren took over as team president, signed with Arizona as a free-agent, initially to back up Leinart. The 6-foot-5 former Oregon State quarterback has a strong arm but has struggled at times with his accuracy. He made the Pro Bowl after leading the Browns to a 10-6 record in 2007 but lost his job to Brady Quinn last season.

Anderson said earlier this week that he was motivated to prove that the 2007 season was "no aberration, not a mirage."

Anderson had been claimed off waivers by Cleveland from Baltimore in 2005.

"He has grown in the little bit of time he has had with the first unit and in the practices," Whisenhunt said. "I like what I have seen. He has made progress. Part of how you assess Derek is we are judging him on what he has done with us."

The same could be said of Leinart.

Rookie Travis Wood steers Reds past Cardinals

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Rookie pitcher Travis Wood hit his first homer and allowed just one unearned run over seven innings to lead the Cincinnati Reds to a 6-1 win over the St. Louis Cardinals in the National League on Saturday.

Wood (5-2) bettered St. Louis starter Adam Wainwright (17-10), who lost a career-worst fourth successive decision, giving up seven hits in five innings.

Rockies 6, Padres 2

In San Diego, the hosts slumped to their ninth straight defeat—their longest skid in seven years—with a loss to Colorado.

The NL West-leading Padres hadn't lost more than three in a row all season before this slump, during which they've gone from having the best record in the NL to having the third-best.

A pregame players-only meeting could not pull the Padres out of their tailspin.

Braves 2, Marlins 0

In Miami, Jair Jurrjens pitched seven scoreless innings and earned his first victory in 10 road starts this season as Atlanta downed Florida.

With the Braves clinging to first place in the NL East, Jurrjens (7-4) matched a career high by winning his fourth decision in a row. He struck out seven.

In a matchup of JJs, Florida starter Josh Johnson (11-6) came out on the short end. He tied a career high with 12 strikeouts in six innings but also gave up eight hits and left trailing 2-0.

Giants 5, Dodgers 4

In Los Angeles, Juan Uribe hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the ninth inning and Brian Wilson escaped a jam in the bottom half to preserve San Francisco's thrilling win over Los Angeles.

Uribe was hitless in three at-bats before sending a Jonathon Broxton (5-5) pitch into the left-field pavilion with one out. Broxton was back at closer for the first time since Aug. 21, but blew his sixth save in 28 chances.

Los Angeles put runners on first and third with one out in the bottom half but Wilson elicited a fly out and a fielder's choice to end the game and earn his 39th save.

Phillies 5, Brewers 4

In Philadelphia, Placido Polanco hit a tying sacrifice fly and Wilson Valdez hustled home with the go-ahead run on an errant throw on the same play, lifting Philadelphia over Milwaukee.

Polanco's fly ball to left with the bases loaded in the seventh inning scored Carlos Ruiz. Ryan Braun's throw sailed behind a sliding Ruiz and hit the backstop, allowing Valdez to slide home.

Cubs 5, Mets 3

In Chicago, Carlos Zambrano passed Kerry Wood on the Cubs' alltime strikeouts list as Chicago beat New York.

Zambrano (7-6) moved into third on the club's strikeout list with 1,411—four more than Wood—after registering eight over seven innings. He allowed four hits while improving to 4-0 in six starts since his latest return to the starting rotation, another twist in a wild season that has seen the volatile ace bounce back and forth from the bullpen and get suspended for a dugout confrontation with former teammate Derrek Lee.

Astros 6, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Carlos Lee hit a three-run homer in Houston's four-run eighth inning and also singled in a run in the first, leading the Astros over Arizona.

With two outs in the eighth, Jeff Keppinger kept the inning alive with a base hit and moved to third on Hunter Pence's double before Lee drove Aaron Heilman's (5-6) next pitch out to left. The burly slugger has 34 RBIs in his past 34 games.

Nationals 9, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, John Lannan allowed only one run for the second consecutive start, guiding Washington past Pittsburgh.

Lannan improved to 5-1 with a 2.93 ERA in seven starts since returning from a six-week stint the minor leagues.

Yankees 7, Blue Jays 5

In New York, the New York Yankees made it a season-record eight straight wins by beating the Toronto Blue Jays.

With scores tied in the bottom of the seventh, Toronto pitcher Jason Frasor (3-4) retired his first two batters before Robinson Cano singled. Marcus Thames then drove a pitch to the back of the Blue Jays' bullpen in left-center for his 11th home run, snapping a 1-for-14 skid.

Twins 12, Rangers 4

In Minneapolis, Jim Thome homered twice for Minnesota, moving past Mark McGwire for ninth place on baseball's all-time homer list and powering the Twins past Texas.

Thome went deep for the 583rd time in his career leading off the third inning, a shot to the second deck above right field estimated at 449 feet. Then with two on and two outs in the fourth, Thome's full-count drive into the bullpen behind left-center made it 9-0 and gave him No. 584.

White Sox 3, Red Sox 1, 1st game
White Sox 3, Red Sox 1, 2nd game

In Boston, Chicago won both game of its doubleheader against Boston with identical scorelines.

In the opener, new Chicago acquisition Manny Ramirez singled twice in his return to Fenway Park.

The White Sox signed Ramirez from the Los Angeles Dodgers, hoping he could help in their quest to make the playoffs. In his first games for Chicago, he had come up against two of his old teams, Cleveland, now Boston.

Carlos Quentin hit a double and triple in the late game for Chicago, which gained half a game in the AL Central to trail division leader Minnesota by 3-1/2 games.

Orioles 8, Rays 4

In Baltimore, the hosts beat Tampa Bay to give manager Buck Showalter his 900th career win.

Showalter became the 64th manager in big league history to reach the mark, and improved to 18-13 with lowly Baltimore since his debut a month ago.

Athletics 3, Angels 1

In Oakland, Trevor Cahill pitched six scoreless innings to become Oakland's first 15-game winner in three years with a victory over Los Angeles.

Cahill (15-6) allowed only one runner past second.

Tigers 6, Royals 4

In Kansas City, Austin Jackson hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the eighth inning for his third hit of the game, lifting Detroit over Kansas City.

Jackson also hit a solo homer in the fifth for the Tigers, who have won three straight to reach .500 for the first time since Aug. 24.

Indians 4, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Mitch Talbot pitched into the seventh inning to help Cleveland beat Seattle.

Talbot (9-11) allowed an unearned run in 6 2-3 innings to pick up his first win since June. He was 0-5 with a 6.23 ERA in his previous nine starts.

No love lost: Sharapova blanks Capra, 6-0, 6-0

NEW YORK (AP)—Maria Sharapova knows the story all too well: An unknown American kid shows up at the U.S. Open, upsets a seeded player, gains some buzz and belief, then gets a shot at Sharapova in the third round.

In 2009, that kid was Melanie Oudin, who beat Sharapova en route to the quarterfinals.

In 2010, that kid was Beatrice Capra and, well, let's just say that Sharapova fared a little better this time around.

Overwhelmed by the stage, the circumstances, the 25 mph wind that knocked the neon lime visor off her head during a point, and—most of all—a solid Sharapova, the 18-year-old Capra didn't win a game, let alone the match. Instead, 2006 U.S. Open champion Sharapova set up a fourth-round showdown with No. 1-seeded Caroline Wozniacki by blanking the 371st-ranked Capra 6-0, 6-0 on Saturday in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"This was a new day," said Sharapova, the first woman to win love-and-love at the U.S. Open in the third round or later since Martina Navratilova did it in the 1989 quarterfinals. "And what happened last year—I didn't really want to go into the match thinking about it."

On her very first serve of the afternoon, Capra nearly sailed the ball all the way to the opposite baseline. That might have been a result of nerves and the ever-swirling wind, which made the U.S. flag above the stadium flap loudly and caused four midpoint stoppages in play when debris rolled onto the court. Plenty of brown, concession-stand napkins and one plastic sandwich bag floated out of the stands; even two white towels made like tumbleweed.

"This is probably the toughest conditions we're going to get," Sharapova said.

Actually, other than whiffing on one serve return, Sharapova handled the conditions rather well; others did not. Fourth-seeded Jelena Jankovic, the 2008 runner-up at Flushing Meadows, shanked one serve straight up in the air off the top of her racket frame and finished with 41 unforced errors in a 6-2, 7-6 (1) loss to No. 31 Kaia Kanepi of Estonia.

"You get frustrated with the wind," Jankovic said, "because you want to hit balls in (a) certain direction, and they go everywhere except where you want them to go."

There were no such surprises in men's action. Five-time U.S. Open champion Roger Federer reached the fourth round by beating Paul-Henri Mathieu 6-4, 6-3, 6-3; No. 3-seeded Novak Djokovic had no trouble getting past American wild card James Blake 6-1, 7-6 (4), 6-3 at night; No. 5 Robin Soderling, twice a French Open finalist, defeated Thiemo de Bakker 6-2, 6-3, 6-3; No. 19 Mardy Fish outlasted 32-year-old Arnaud Clement, the oldest man left, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3. Fish now takes on Djokovic for a berth in the quarterfinals.

Also, No. 13 Jurgen Melzer beat 2003 French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero 7-5, 6-3, 6-1; No. 21 Albert Montanes advanced when qualifier Ken Nishikori quit in the second set with a groin injury, two days after winning a grueling five-setter; and No. 17 Gael Monfils picked up a 7-6 (4), 6-7 (4), 6-2, 6-4 win over Janko Tipsarevic, who knocked off 2003 U.S. Open champion Andy Roddick in the second round.

AP

Maria Sharapova of Russia returns the ball to Beatrice Capra of the United States at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Saturday, Sept. 4, 2010.

Asked to describe the weather, Monfils said: "Awful. I mean, for me: awful."

Capra, who's from Ellicott City, Md., and trains at the Evert Academy in Florida, acknowledged struggling with the wind. She also acknowledged feeling jitters, and who could blame her, really? She won a U.S. Tennis Association playoff in August to earn a U.S. Open wild card; not only was this her first Grand Slam tournament - it was her first tour-level, main-draw event, period.

She became the lowest-ranked woman since 2002 to reach the U.S. Open's third round by beating 95th-ranked Karolina Sprem in the first round, then 18th-seeded Aravane Rezai in the second.

And now she found herself going up against the 23-year-old Sharapova, someone Capra said she looked up to "when I was younger." They never had met until Saturday.

So what was that like?

"Before the match, she would just walk past me and kind of, like, give me a glare, which is kind of intimidating," Capra said. "After the match, when we shook hands, she was really nice."

Oudin, who knows Capra from her junior days, sent a text message after the victory over Rezai, offering advice.

"I should have talked to Melanie before the match, because I was wondering—I was like, 'Was Melanie this nervous before she played?'" Capra said. "I didn't get the chance to, but I probably should have."

Then again, the Capra of 2010 is not exactly the Oudin of 2009, a player who already had risen to 70th in the rankings before the U.S. Open, thanks to a run to the fourth round at Wimbledon that summer.

And, to be fair, the Sharapova of 2010 is not exactly the Sharapova of 2009, either.

"She doesn't give you anything," noted Capra, whose exit leaves Venus Williams as the only U.S. woman in the field. "Even though she's beating me that badly, she's still so focused."

A year ago, Sharapova was still figuring things out after having right shoulder surgery in October 2008, still working her way back into match shape after missing the start of the season.

Against Oudin, Sharapova double-faulted 21 times, more than any woman had in any tour match all year.

Against Capra, Sharapova double-faulted five times, but otherwise was in strong form.

"I mean, I could have done better, and, you know, it was close in some of the games," said Capra, whose parents, sister, grandparents, aunt and two friends were in the stands. "Plus, when you're, like, losing that bad, it's just in your head, like, 'Just please let me win one game.'"

That's what 2009 U.S. Open runner-up Wozniacki's opponents might have been thinking: She has won 36 of 39 games so far, including Saturday's 6-1, 6-0 victory over Chan Yung-jan of Taiwan. That followed a 6-0, 6-0 shutout—known in tennis as a "double bagel"—in the second round.

Other women advancing Saturday included No. 7 Vera Zvonareva, the runner-up at Wimbledon in July; No. 11 Svetlana Kuznetsova, the 2004 U.S. Open champion, who beat No. 23 Maria Kirilenko 6-3, 6-4 at night; and No. 15 Yanina Wickmayer, who lost to Wozniacki in the 2009 semifinals in New York.

The three games Wozniacki has lost so far this year are the fewest through three completed matches at any Grand Slam tournament since Mary Pierce dropped only two at the 1994 French Open.

"I have been feeling good out there," Wozniacki said, the understatement of the week. "It just says something about how I've been playing, and the level I've been playing on."

Snedeker is leading in Boston; Woods shoots 65

NORTON, Mass. (AP)—About the only thing fun for Jason Day was being atop the leaderboard in the Deutsche Bank Championship.

One day after he opened with a 63 in conditions so calm he might as well have been playing indoors, Day found out quickly what he was up against Saturday in tree-shaking wind on the TPC at Boston.

He hit a tee shot down the middle and found it in the right rough.

He aimed his 9-iron 10 yards left of his target and saw it fly over the green.

Day got away with it by chipping in for birdie on his way to a 4-under 67 to share the lead with Brandt Snedeker, the second straight week the 22-year-old Australian has been a 36-hole leader in the FedEx Cup playoffs.

"It was a little tougher out there today," Day said. "It wasn't as fun as yesterday, I'll tell you that much."

Snedeker went from the rain showers of Hurricane Earl to breezy conditions in his second round and had a 7-under 64. The wind got stronger throughout the afternoon for Day, who birdied his last two holes to catch Snedeker.

For all the fretting over weather giving half the field a good break, it turned out to be a push. Of the top 18 on the leaderboard, it was evenly split with players who had to cope with rain and who got the worst of the wind.

"I wasn't liking my odds in the draw when I teed of yesterday," Snedeker said. "That being said, I think it's going to end up working out exactly the same. I think these guys in the afternoon are going to have the tough conditions we had yesterday afternoon."

Tiger Woods turned his game around at the right time.

In jeopardy of missing the cut and missing out on the rest of the FedEx Cup playoffs, Woods didn't hit a bad shot through six holes and played bogey-free for the first time in more than a year for a 6-under 65 that left him in the middle of the pack.

Woods, who started in a tie for 87th, moved up to a tie for 29th and was seven shots behind with 36 holes to play.

"I had to shoot a good one if I was going to move on," Woods said. "And I was able to do that today."

Day, in the 36-hole lead for the second straight week in these playoffs, and Snedeker were at 12-under 130. They were one shot ahead of FedEx Cup leader Matt Kuchar (65) and Charley Hoffman (67), with Luke Donald (67) another shot behind.

Defending champion Steve Stricker made it through another round without a bogey and was at 9-under 133, while Phil Mickelson started hitting fairways and making putts and was in the group at 8-under 134 that included Ryder Cup hopeful Stewart Cink, Hunter Mahan, Zach Johnson and Andres Romero, who only got into the 100-man field by making a 40-foot birdie putt on the final hole last week.

The top 70 in the FedEx Cup standings advance to the third round next week outside Chicago. Fifteen players were eliminated by missing the cut, including Chad Campbell under bizarre circumstances. He was disqualified Saturday morning when officials realized he had never registered for the tournament, a simple formality.

"Just can't believe you make a mistake like that," Campbell said.

Snedeker didn't make hardly any in beautiful morning conditions, except for a bogey on his opening hole. He responded with a birdie on the par-3 11th, then really took over on the easy stretch of holes to start the front nine, which includes a reachable par 5 and a driveable par 4. Snedeker made four birdies in a five-hole stretch.

"Two or three birdies is realistic to expect," Snedeker said. "But you can't get down on yourself if you don't make birdies."

Padraig Harrington, a European Ryder Cup pick last week, missed the cut and might be eliminated from the playoffs.

Woods hit a 3-wood and a 9-iron on the 12th hole during the opening round in the rain. He reached the 469-yard hole just as wind was starting to blow and had to hit driver and 6-iron. For some players, such as Johnson, it was a 3-wood to the green.

NATIONALS

From Page 28

James Lee picking it up.

Lee then spotted a sprinting Pete Iguel, who went up for a fastbreak layup, giving the Nationals an 84-76 lead. Hi-5 went for a triple and missed and the Nationals just wasted the clock to keep their unbeaten record (10-0) in the nine-team league and gain the first finals berth.

Iguel top-scored for the Nationals with 26 points, while Lizama chipped in 23.

Abuel led Hi-5 with 19 points, while Dave Sablan contributed 16.

Though Sablan still finished in double figures, he was held to only one field goal in the second half and uncharacteristically muffed layups and free throws. In Hi-5's first two wins in the playoffs, Sablan averaged 28.5 points, scoring 30 in their 85-72 win over the Ol'Aces and 27 in their 89-75 triumph against IT&E.

The Ol'Aces remained in contention for a finals stint in the Budweiser caging after dominating O'Douls' Runnin' Rebels, 98-71.

The Ol'Aces leaned on their balance offense to eliminate the Runnin' Rebels, who absorbed their second loss in the double-elimination playoffs. The Ol'Aces had five players scoring in double figures with Eli Aughenbaugh, who missed the team's first playoff game, reporting back for duty and firing 16 markers. Marvin Rabauliman, Trevor Ogumoro, and Ben Lisua tallied 15 apiece, while Junior Fernandez nailed 14.

The Runnin' Rebels were still in the game after the first half, trailing by only three, 38-41, before the O'Aces pulled way in the third period. The Ol'Aces outgunned the Runnin' Rebels in the third canto, 30-16, for a 71-54 lead and the former never looked back from thereon.

The Ol'Aces will play IT&E tonight with the winner facing Becks on Wednesday. The winner of Wednesday night's match will then collide against Hi-5 on Sept. 10 for the second finals ticket.

First Game

Ol'Aces 98 – Aughenbaugh 16, Rabauliman 15, Ogumoro 15, Lisua 15, Fernandez 14, Iginoef 6, Omar 6, Rangamar 5.

Runnin' Rebels 81 – De Vero 25, Iguel 20, Olaitiman 17, Rangamar 9, Kenty 4, Tomokane 4.

Scoring by quarters: 22-18, 41-38, 71-54, 98-81.

Second Game

CNMI Nationals 84 – Iguel 26, Lizama 23, Chariton 10, Quan 8, Tumaquip 3, Lee 2, Villacrusis 2, Naraja 2.

Hi-5 76 – Abuel 19, Sablan 16, Bernardo 13, Santos 10, Demapan 5, Lerio 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-21, 42-48, 66-58, 84-76.

TENORIO

From Page 28

is probably the best course in the CNMI. The execution of the event was carried out very well…it was for a good cause and I like coming out for a good cause," added Tenorio.

After Tenorio's seven handicap was subtracted from his gross score of 75, he recorded a net score of 68. Notably, Docomo golf tourney utilized a modified scoring system that adds a player's highest and lowest hole score and subtracts it from the net value. Tenorio tallied a high-low figure of 10, which left him with a 58 modified score for the day.

The $55,000 raised in proceeds from the tournament went to the Marianas Tourism Education Council. MTEC president Ed Cho was present and thanked all of the participants, organizers and sponsors.

"All of the money goes to promote tourism and to educate students at PSS about the importance of our last and only industry on island. I can't express enough how important this is, so thank you again for all of the support," affirmed Cho.

Docomo Pacific president and CEO Jay Shedd also participated in the tournament and offered some kind words during the awards presentation.

"Thank you all of the volunteers, players and sponsors.I would like to send special thanks to the event organizer James Nelson, we are all very proud of him over in Guam and Japan. I had a great time today and I hope everyone did as well," said Shedd.

Second place in the A Flight was Lee Kuen Pil, who grossed a score of 78 and a 69 net card. Pil's high-low figure of nine gave him a modified score of 60.

Mori Toshiyuki marked a gross card of 77 and a 71 net card. His high-low figure of 10 left him a stroke behind Pil at 61.

Tony Satur came out the winner in a head-to-head Championship Flight duel over Jason Yi. The NMASA Hall of Famer recorded a gross score of 78 and netted a 73 after his five-handicap adjustment. His high-low figure of nine left him a stroke ahead of Yi with a 64 modified score. Satur and Yi were the only two Championship Flight entrants.

Yi posted an impressive gross card of 74. Yi scratched his handicap, but since his high-low figure equaled Satur's nine, Yi ended up with a 61 after the score modification.

In B Flight, Joe Saures topped a field of 21 players, Carl Hocog came in second, and Jay Muna finished third.

Saures posted a gross card of 82 and a net score of 67. His modified score gave him a 56, four strokes ahead of Hocog.

Hocog grossed an 80, netted a 68 and ended up with a modified score of 58.

Muna grossed an 81, netted a 68 and was issued a modified score of 59.

Jun Hak Song bested a field of 22 in C Flight, William Sword finished in second, and Park Yong Woong took third.

Song grossed an 83, netted a 65, and was dealt a 56 modified score. Sword grossed a 92 and netted a 68 that transcribed into a modified mark of 57. Woong grossed an 86, netted a 68 and was left with a modified score of 58.

Rick Kautz won the six-player Senior Flight, Edward Manibusan came in second, and Juan L. Babauta finished in third.

Kautz grossed a 74, netted a 68, and ended up with a modified score 59. Manibusan grossed a 75, netted a 71, and finished out with a 61. Babauta grossed an 83, netted a 71, and a modified card of 62.

Me Ae Jeon won the eight-player Ladies Flight, Sherlyn Jones took second place, and Kim Yang came in third. Jeon grossed an 82, netted a 72 and finished with a 62. Jones grossed an 88, netted a 74, and finished with a 64. Yang grossed a 93, netted a 77, and a modified card of 65.

Additionally, a multitude of raffle prizes were also handed out, including hotel stays, various restaurant and food coupons, golf balls, golf accessories, and many other gift certificates.

CELL PRO

From Page 28

match with only five players thus looked a little disorganized in the first quarter, which ended with Wings Travel in front, 19-10.

In the second quarter, Wings Travel kept pushing the pedal to amass a 43-23 lead at the break. Tony Diaz led Wings Travel's breakaway in the second canto, firing eight points, while Edmark Mendoza added five.

After the break, WT's stingy defense remained effective, as it contained Buraot to only 12 in the third period. With a 23-point lead, 58-35, going into the fourth quarter, Wings Travel elected to bring in players off the bench.

The move enabled Buraot to produce some remnants of offense, however, Wings Travel was never in any real danger of losing the huge lead and still won the game by 24 points.

Diaz top-scored for Wings Travel with 16 points, while Dennis Morales and Bernard Aquino added 15 and 12, respectively.

In the first game, Cellular Pro dominated the Westerners with the former leaning on its run and gun offense for a rousing debut in the 10-team league.

Roger Herrera led Cell Pro's attack in the opening period with seven points and received five and four points, respectively, from teammates Rocyl Ritual and Roy Hernandez. On defense, Cell Pro used their speed to pressure the Westerners from the backcourt. The defensive tactics forced Westerners to commit too many turnovers, which Cell Pro converted to points.

With their three mainstay players at the helm, Cell Pro took a 30-19 halftime lead. It stretched the margin to 26 points by the end of the third quarter, 54-28, and then held Westerners to four points in the final canto for a 32-point win.

The Westerners scored in the fourth quarter only after Cell Pro called off its backcourt press in the late minutes of the game.

Cell Pro players are better conditioned than Westerners cagers, as the former have been playing in various local leagues, while the former were mostly newcomers.

Roy Hernandez paced Cell Pro with 16 points, while Herrera and Ritual chipped in 16 and 13, respectively.

Action in the QQ Cup resumes this Wednesday with a pair of games. In the first match at 6pm, Docomo-Mobil will challenge Pacific Grocers, while in the second game at 8pm, Ferrera Builders will take on Saimar Pilot.

First Game

Cellular Pro 64 – Hernandez 16, Herrera 16, Ritual 13, Manuel 5, J. Loste 4, Cabrera 2, Mongami 2, Ordonez 2, Pablo 2, Dulfo 1, C. Loste 1.

Westerners 32 – Tawanpiy 9, Rapuepai 5, Tagabuel 8, Fairedmar 2, Finiah 2, Itebuch 2, Libuw 2, Yarufalir 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-7, 30-19, 54-28, 64-32.

Second Game

Wings Travel 77 – Diaz 16, Morales 15, Aquino 12, Talania 8, Mendoza 5, Camacho 4, Keizer 3, Stafford 3, Gabaldon 2, Guiang 2, Pantola 2

Buraot 51 – Gapor 10, Fernando 10, Odicta 9, Cagucio 6, Lee 6, Swain 3, Bautista 2, Manalo 2, Reyes 2, Delos Reyes 1.

Scoring by quarters: 19-10, 43-23, 58-35, 77-51.

CAVITE

From Page 28

99 loss to MDX and improve to a 2-2 record.

Bayani-Soul Jazz, which remained winless in four games, had a chance to snap its losing skid when Jun Tabora canned a short jumper to put his team ahead, 94-93, with 29 seconds remaining in overtime.

In Cavite's ensuing possession, Boy Garcia pulled up for a baseline jumper and missed. However, Bayani could not hang on to the ball after the rebound play, returning possession to Cavite.

With 10 seconds left in overtime and five on Cavite's 24-second shot lock, Opone inbounded the ball from the baseline and then made a bounce pass to a cutting Rebuyon, who banked a shot, giving Cavite the lead.

Bayani-Soul Jazz was then forced to go for a quick inbound play, as the clock was ticking and it had no timeout left. Bayani managed to bring the ball to its frontcourt with Jojo Ong touching it last and pulling up for a jumper, but missed, preserving Cavite's win.

Both teams had chances to win the game in regulation.

For Cavite, James Villacrusis was give the opportunity to seal the win when he trooped to the stripe for a pair of charities with his team in front, 83-82, five ticks to go in the fourth quarter.

However, Villacrusis muffed both free throws, and to make things worse for Cavite, Opone was called for a pushing foul against Lerio Pagarao in the rebound play.

With four seconds left, Pagarao stepped to the foul line and missed his first free throw. He nailed the second one to tie the game, 83-all, and Cavite's last shot in regulation fell short, sending the game in overtime.

Pagarao then made up for his crucial miss in regulation, drilling three jumpers in overtime to keep Bayani in the led. However, Villacrusis also scored important baskets in overtime with his split putting Cavite in the lead, 93-94, before Tabora's 10-footer bounced in and gave Bayani the lead back.

Neither team had timeout left, giving them no chance to map out a play. Fortunately for Cavite, Bayani committed a defensive lapse, while Opone and Rebuyon's tested chemistry came into fold in the home stretch.

MDX 91, Laguna 76

In the first game, MDX-PTC broke into the win column after whipping Laguna-Moonlight, 91-76.

MDX-PTC had three players scoring 20-plus points en route to a 15-point victory over the winless Laguna (0-3).

Sonny Ebuen and Jorge De Guzman tallied 26 points apiece for MDX-PTC, while Jun Tabora chipped in 22.

MDX, which now has a 1-1 slate, led by only 14 at the end of the first period, 19-14, before the trio of Ebuen, De Guzman, and Tabora joined forces in the team's second quarter breakaway. De Guzman drilled 11, while Tabora and Ebuen added eight apiece to give MDX a 49-31 advantage at the break.

Ebuen was still at it in the third period, firing 12 markers and keeping MDX's double-digit lead, 68-45. MDX's big men then took over in the fourth canto with De Guzman scoring 10 and Art Trajano recording seven points to hand Laguna its third loss.

First Game

MDX-PTC 91 – Ebuen 26, De Guzman 26, Tabora 22, Trajano 13, Sabino 2, Tobias 2.

Laguna-Moonlight 76 – Illahi 20, Pablo 15, Palacios 15, Villegas 10, Lopez 5, Tiples 4, Bugay 3, Garcia 2, Malasarte 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-15, 49-31, 68-45, 91-76.

Second Game

Cavite 95 – Villacrusis 30, Opone 19, Rebuyon 18, Montano 11, Artates 10, Garcia 5, Hernandez 2.

Bayani-Soul Jazz 94 – Tabora 22, Mangali 18, J. Pagarao 13, L. Pagarao 9, Dayrit 7, David 7, Ong 6, Lansang 5, Inos 4, Saplan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-16, 41-34, 57-63, 83-83, 95-94.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	86	50	.632	–
Tampa Bay	83	52	.615	2 1/2
Boston	76	60	.559	10
Toronto	69	66	.511	16 1/2
Baltimore	50	86	.368	36

Central Division

Minnesota	79	57	.581	–
Chicago	75	60	.556	3 1/2
Detroit	68	68	.500	11
Kansas City	56	79	.415	22 1/2
Cleveland	55	81	.404	24

West Division

Texas	75	60	.556	–
Oakland	67	68	.496	8
Los Angeles	65	71	.478	10 1/2
Seattle	53	83	.390	22 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	79	57	.581	–
Philadelphia	78	58	.574	1
Florida	68	66	.507	10
New York	66	70	.485	13
Washington	58	78	.426	21

Central Division

Cincinnati	79	56	.585	–
St. Louis	70	63	.526	8
Houston	63	72	.467	16
Milwaukee	62	73	.459	17
Chicago	59	77	.434	20 1/2
Pittsburgh	45	90	.333	34

West Division

San Diego	76	58	.567	–
San Francisco	75	61	.551	2
Colorado	71	64	.526	5 1/2
Los Angeles	69	67	.507	8
Arizona	56	80	.412	21

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 5, N.Y. Mets 3
Cincinnati 6, St. Louis 1
Colorado 6, San Diego 2
Philadelphia 5, Milwaukee 4
Washington 9, Pittsburgh 2
Atlanta 2, Florida 0
Houston 6, Arizona 5
San Francisco 5, L.A. Dodgers 4
Chicago White Sox 3, Boston 1, 1st game
Chicago White Sox 3, Boston 1, 2nd game
N.Y. Yankees 7, Toronto 5
Oakland 3, L.A. Angels 1
Minnesota 12, Texas 4
Baltimore 8, Tampa Bay 4
Detroit 6, Kansas City 4
Cleveland 4, Seattle 2

LOCAL SCORES

UFO STANDINGS

Open Division

MDX Chow Queen	4	0
MAFEA-Ali'i	4	0
SIP-Mobil	2	2
Cavite	2	2
SIS-Marianas Wireless	1	3
NMBA-Island Apparel	0	2
Bayani-Soul Jazz	0	4

Masters Division

VisMinda-Kids Cove	2	0
Cabalen-Wings Travel	2	0
MAFEA	1	2
MDX-PTC	1	1
Laguna-Moonlight	0	3

Weekend Sports

Mieko, Manglona top headlines

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mieko Carey's back-to-back wins in XTERRA Japan and Kelly "Rukiz" Manglona's title defense in "Armageddon" were the talk of the town last week.

Carey reigned in the women's division of XTERRA Japan Championships for her second straight victory in the annual race held in Marunuma. The 32-year-old triathlete topped the grueling event despite heavy rains and lightning on race day.

Manglona also had to go through a tough test before defending his middleweight title against Guam's Cody Cruz in Gorilla Warfare Mixed Martial Arts' "Armageddon" held at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Cruz hit Manglona with a nice hook on the jaw early in the first round, but the latter recovered and won on tapped out via a rear-naked choke.

In basketball, the Budweiser caging started its playoff round with the CNMI Nationals booking the first finals ticket after notching two victories. IT&E, Ol'Aces, Becks, and Hi-5 will battle for the remaining finals seat.

In the Miller Lite caging, the league was down to two teams after Satbahi beat Grill' in the last semifinals game to set up a title duel against Wings Travel.

While the Miller Lite and Budweiser leagues are near their conclusion, one caging just started its competition.

The QQ Rent A Car Cup opened last week with 10 teams vying for the inaugural championship. IT&E and Docomo won the opening games against Wings Travel and Atalig Associates, respectively.

Still in basketball, only three games in the Emon Lodge caging were played with Marianas Wireless, MBI-Right Guard, and Armatech winning in separate matches. Mobil and Wings Travel were also handed wins due to forfeitures.

Other notable developments last week were the naming of all gold medalists in the 7th Micronesian Games as top athletes of the month (August); Yvonne Bennett's bid for a slot on the track team of Boise State University; the two slots on the FIFA swim meet given to CNMI; and an Oceania cycling official's Saipan visit.

During the NMASA monthly meeting, the group voted swimmers Rezne Wong, Kai Staal, Kensuke and Shin Kimura, and Grace Kimball; netters Kana Aikawa and Todd Montgomery, Jodel Fernandez, and Lydia Tan; table tennis players Steve Lim, Budhi Gurung, Su Yung Dong, and Luke Lu; triathletes Mieko Carey, Matt Mancao, Lewie Tenorio, and Kieran Daly; and athletics' Yvonne and Yvette Bennett, Mamiko Oshima-Berger, Ryan Ichihara, Jacque Wonenberg, Lia Rangamar, and Reylynn Sapong, as the NMASA Male and Female Athletes of the Month.

Yvonne Bennett would not be able to receive her monthly award, as she left the island after the Micro Games to study in Boise. She is now trying out on the track team of the Broncos.

In swimming, after their stint in the Micro Games, Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura and Kai Staal are hoping to represent the CNMI to the FINA World Swimming Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

In cycling, Oceania Cycling Confederation vice president Mike Victor had a four-day visit here to brief local riders of the development of the sport in the region.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Wings Travel's Yosh Gabaldon and IT&E's Ivan De Vero battle for the loose ball during the opening game in the QQ Rent A Car Cup last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI Nationals' Pete Iguel goes up for a shot against Hi-5's Edwin Santos during their semis game in the Budweiser caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Yvonne Bennett, left, and twin sister Yvette pose inside Boise State University's Taco Bell Arena, which was undergoing renovation.

WALTER SUTHERLAND
Kelly "Rukiz" Manglona pins down Guam's Cody Cruz in Gorilla Warfare Mixed Martial Arts' Armageddon held at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kai Staal, seen here racing in a local meet, won a bunch of gold medals in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau and was among the athletes named as top performers for August.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mieko Carey smiles after cutting the tape at the finish line of XTERRA Japan Championship.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Oceania Cycling Confederation vice president Mike Victor enjoys a light moment at the Seaside Grill of Pacific Islands Club during the last day of his official four-day visit on Saipan.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Nationals clinch finals seat

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Bud Light CNMI Nationals booked the first finals ticket in the 2010 Budweiser Men's Basketball League after outclassing Bacardi Mojito Hi-5 in the winner's bracket semifinals, 84-76, Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Nationals made two defensive stops in the home stretch to eke out an eight-point win and advance to the finals. Hi-5 dropped to the loser's bracket and will battle the second and last finals seat against Bud Light Lime Ol'Aces, Hoegaarden IT&E, and Becks Sixsevenoh.

Jack Lizama made the first defensive play when he intercepted Sonny Lerio's inbound pass. Hi-5's error was costly, as the team was attempting to cut the lead further after trimming the Nationals' advantage to four, 76-80.

After the miscue, Lizama drew a foul and calmly sank both free throws, upping the Nationals' lead to six, 82-76, with less than 20 seconds left on the clock.

In Hi-5's possession, Jose Tumaquip trapped Wowie Abuel in the sideline near midcourt in front of the scorer's table. Wary of being caught with an eight-second violation from backcourt. Abuel went for a quick pass, but the ball landed on the wrong hands with the Nationals'

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI Nationals' Peter Mendiola, center, is sandwiched by Hi-5's Edwin Santos, left, and Sonny Lerio during their semis game in the Budweiser caging Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

WALTER SUTHERLAND
Docomo Pacific Golf Classic A Flight champion Peter Tenorio, center, poses with Docomo Pacific president Jay Shedd, right, and tournament organizer James Nelson during the awards banquet at Laolao Bay Golf Resort Saturday.

Tenorio tops A Flight of Docomo golf

WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Peter Tenorio outlasted 17 other golfers to win the A Flight championship of the first ever Docomo Pacific Golf Classic held last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

"The conditions of the course this morning were great. The wind was calm and the ground was soft, which enabled us all to attack the pins. We were lucky to miss the rain…fortunately I putted well and was on target with my irons all day. [Laolao]

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Cavite nips Bayani in overtime

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Cavite returned to its winning ways after pulling off a 95-94 overtime win over Bayani-Soul Jazz during their open division game in the 2010 United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League Saturday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Longtime teammates William Opone and Francis Rebuyon delivered the winning play for Cavite in the last 10 seconds of the extension period to help their team recover from its 93-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Cavite's Mike Umali drives and fishes for a foul against Bayani-Soul Jazz defenders during their game in the UFO caging Saturday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Cell Pro, Wings Travel win in QQ Car Rental caging

WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Wings Travel bounced back, while Cellular Pro won its debut during Friday's games in the 2010 QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup at the Garapan Basketball Court.

After suffering a loss in the opening of the league, bowing to IT&E, 54-68, Wings Travel recovered, following a 77-51 triumph over Buraot in the second game of the night. In the curtain-raiser, Cellular Pro crushed Westerners, 64-32.

Wings Travel had control of the game as early in the opening period after it limited Buraot to 10 points. Buraot started the

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WALTER SUTHERLAND
Members of Cellular Pro pose for a photo after dominating the Westerners in their debut game in the 2010 QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.